

# Oregon Historic Site Form

Alameda School  
2732 Fremont St  
Portland, Multnomah County

## LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 2732 NE Fremont St  appr. addr

Portland  vcnty Multnomah County

Optional Information  
 assoc addresses:  
 (former addresses, intersections, etc.)  
 location descr:  
 (remote sites)

historic name: Alameda School

current/  
 other names: Alameda Elementary School

block nbr: \_\_\_\_\_ lot nbr: \_\_\_\_\_ tax lot nbr: \_\_\_\_\_  
 township: \_\_\_\_\_ range: \_\_\_\_\_ section: \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4: \_\_\_\_\_  
 zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: Building height (# stories): 2

elig. evaluation: eligible/contributing

primary constr date: 1922 (c.)  secondary date: 1925 (c.)   
 (optional--use for major addns)

primary orig use: School

secondary orig use: \_\_\_\_\_

primary style: Colonial Revival

secondary style: \_\_\_\_\_

primary siding: Horizontal Board

secondary siding: Wood:Other/Undefined

plan type: School (General)

total # eligible resources: 3 total # ineligible resources: 0

NR status: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NR date listed: \_\_\_\_\_ (indiv listed only; see Grouping for hist dist)

orig use comments: \_\_\_\_\_

prim style comments: \_\_\_\_\_

sec style comments: \_\_\_\_\_

siding comments: \_\_\_\_\_

architect: Jones, George

builder: \_\_\_\_\_

comments/notes: The building has an HRI Rank II.

## GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

survey project name or other grouping name: PPS Historic Building Assessment 2009 Survey & Inventory Project

farmstead/cluster name: \_\_\_\_\_ external site #: 230  
 (ID# used in city/agency database)

## SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: \_\_\_\_\_

ILS survey date: 7/2/2009

RLS survey date: 7/2/2009

Gen File date: \_\_\_\_\_

**106 Project(s)**



## ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

(Include expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings, and alterations)

### Description Summary

Situated between the Irvington and Alameda neighborhoods of northeast Portland, the Alameda Elementary School campus consists of a 1922 U-shaped building (230A, B, and C) and two 1918 portable buildings (230P1 and P2). The primary Colonial Revival building is a one-story wood structure ornamented by a pediment topped portico and gabled roofs with rounded dormers. Double hung wood frame and Palladian style windows provide the fenestration. Doors on the east and west (side) elevations are flanked by fanlights and exhibit plain wood pilasters. Double loaded corridors provide access to the administrative offices located along the north wing and classrooms located along the east and west wings of the building. Two classroom additions (230B and C) were made to the original building in 1954 and 1992.

### Architectural Description

The Alameda Elementary School is situated between the Irvington and Alameda neighborhoods of northeast Portland at 2732 NE Fremont Street. The neighborhood consists of a mixture of single family residences built primarily between 1920 and 1950 (Sanborn Maps 1924-1928, Sanborn Map updated to 1950). The primary entrance to the facility is from NE Fremont Street. Play areas and open space occupy the southern end of the campus and are sited to the north of NE Klickitat Street. To the south of the main facility are two 1918 portable buildings, which are clad in T-111, capped by gable roofs, and feature double hung wood frame windows.

The primary 1922 Colonial Revival school building consists of a U-shaped plan with an auditorium that is sited between the wings that form the 'U' shape. Rectangular classroom, administrative office, and recreation spaces are located along the U-shaped corridor. Entry to the building is marked by a pedimented portico with tympanum. The primary cladding material is horizontal beveled siding. The primary entrance to the main building is marked by a pedimented portico with a tympanum decorated by a shield and garland motif. The basic unit of fenestration for the main building consists of double hung windows, Palladian windows (particularly on the gable end sections), and oval louvered vents. Doors on the east and west (side) elevations are marked by more modestly decorated porticos with wood pilasters and fanlights. The primary building is capped by low gable roofs with rounded dormers. Additions to the south end of the east arm (1992) and west arm (1954) are capped by flat and hip roofs. The buildings that comprise the campus largely rest on poured concrete foundations.

The principal entry opens into a lobby illuminated by windows that flank the entry door. The auditorium, located across from the main entrance, is marked by inlaid wood marquetry that composed by Works Progress Administration (WPA) artists. The double loaded corridors are lined with a wood picture molding. Tubular fluorescent light fixtures are suspended from the acoustic tile clad ceiling. All of the wings within the primary building feature skylights and the east and west wings feature bands of windows along the interior/classroom walls. Wood doors with center lights provide access to the classrooms. Flooring consists of linoleum tiles and carpeting. The classrooms feature a rectangular plan often with a recessed area that features a sink, coat closet, work counter, and cupboards. Classroom windows line the exterior walls and retain their wood surrounds. The building is heated by boilers that are located beneath the auditorium. Wall heaters provide heat for the classrooms and other spaces.

### Alterations/ Integrity

Within four years of the construction of the primary building, an auditorium and classroom wings located off the south end of the east and west sides of the building were added to the school. Also in 1925, the sheltered play courts, located along the interior elevations of east and west wings, were enclosed to form a gym and additional classroom space. Other additions include the construction of a kitchen in 1951, classroom addition (230B) off the south end of the west wing in 1954, and more classrooms (230C) off the south end of the east elevation in 1992. Interior alterations include the replacement of floor tiles (1955, 1984 and 1985) and tiles by carpeting (1973), some of the interior doors, and lighting fixtures. Other alterations include the remodeling of the auditorium (1951), bathrooms (1955), and classroom 114 and the faculty lunch room into a library (2002).

Alameda Elementary School retains a moderate degree of integrity. The 1954 and 1992 additions are not located along the primary elevations of the building and contribute to the retention of the U-shaped plan. The building retains its original wood cladding, overall pattern of windows, colonial revival details, and form. The configuration of the corridors, primary spaces, and classroom design are also intact. Although the flooring, ceiling tiles and lighting have been changed, other interior finishes including the wood molding, classroom doors, and classroom built-ins are intact.

Alterations to the 1918 portable buildings include new siding, roofing material, furniture, lighting fixtures, ceiling tile, and the replacement of asphalt floor tiles with carpet. While alterations have been made to some of the interior and exterior materials, the double hung wood frame windows and the form and configuration of these buildings are intact. The portable buildings contribute to the significance of the site.

## HISTORY

(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period [preferably to the present])

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## Statement of Significance

Built in 1922, Alameda Elementary School was constructed during a period of progressive era growth that responded to changing city demographics and ideas concerning safety, sanitation, and child centered instruction (Rippa, 1997: passim; Cremin 1961: 135-153; Cubberley 1915: 283-290). By 1905, it became increasingly clear that dramatic increases in school-age children outstripped the district's existing classroom capacity and existing schools could not effectively serve areas of the city where new residential development was occurring (Cubberley 1915: 283-285, 288-290).

In 1915, residents of northeast Portland purchased land for the constructing of the Alameda Elementary School at NE 25th and Fremont, seven months later the school was relocated to its current site at NE 27th Avenue and Fremont (The Oregonian, "Alameda School Alumni Celebrate 60th Anniversary," May 10, 1981). While the current building was being constructed, school children were taught in simple rectangular buildings or "portable buildings." Two of these buildings remain on the site.

Portland Public Schools (PPS) District Architect, George Jones, designed the Alameda School. Jones was one of the most influential school district architects. Jones along with Floyd Naramore designed a large majority of the elementary, intermediate, as well as high schools between 1908 and 1932. Beginning in 1908, with the emergence of the Bureau of Properties, PPS district architects took on a more formalized role in the design and maintenance of school facilities. The Bureau of Properties was created by PPS to centralize management of the district's properties (Powers and Corning 1937: 182).

For Alameda Elementary School, Jones adopted the building program and principles that dominated the discourse for school design during the first half of the twentieth century. After several well-publicized school fires in U.S. cities, calls for a more fundamental change in the building construction began as early as 1906 (Oregonian, 10-31-1906). Many of Portland's new fire proof buildings were constructed of brick and concrete; however, Alameda Elementary School, constructed of wood and metal, deviated from this shift in materials. The school typifies the single-story U-shaped school plans that were seen as an exemplar of fireproof construction and rapid building egress (The Evening Telegram, 11-03-1915). These new buildings were often constructed in units (sometimes referred to as extensible schools) and contained more differentiated and increasingly specialized classroom spaces (Powers and Corning 1937: 182). By 1925, Alameda Elementary School included an auditorium, cafeteria, library, nature study room, home economics room and gymnasium (The Oregonian, "Alameda School Alumni Celebrate 60th Anniversary," May 10, 1981).

Alameda Elementary School was constructed in the Colonial Revival style that was popular for educational buildings during the first half of the twentieth-century. The architectural details of Portland schools constructed during this period encompass the Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Collegiate Gothic styles; architectural revivals that were viewed as inspirational and appropriate for educational settings (Betelle 1919: 28; Sibley 1923: 66; Patton 1967: 1-8). Between the onset of the Great Depression in 1929 and World War II in 1941, few schools were constructed in Portland; however, several schools, including Alameda Elementary, were recipients of Works Progress Administration (WPA) artwork. Alameda Elementary School's murals, consisting of wood marquetry, depict Indians and Euro American fur trappers and settlers that symbolize the founding of Oregon.

Alameda Elementary School retains good integrity (of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association) with its plan and exterior and interior finishes. The 1922 Colonial Revival school and 1918 ancillary buildings are recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for their association with progressive era public school construction in Portland (Criterion A). The school complex is a strong example of the principles that characterized the design of schools during this era; therefore, it is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A. The Alameda School does not appear to be associated with a significant person or persons and therefore does not merit listing under Criterion B. Alameda Elementary School is a good example of the single-story Colonial Revival school buildings that were constructed during the early-twentieth century in Portland in response to prevailing ideas concerning the appropriateness of the style within an educational context and out of concerns for fire safety. It embodies the distinctive characteristics the one story elementary school building type and is therefore eligible for listing in the NRHA under Criterion C.

## RESEARCH INFORMATION

(Check all of the basic sources consulted and cite specific important sources)

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title Records           | <input type="checkbox"/> Census Records                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Histories      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files | <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers           | <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Directories        | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permits                | <input type="checkbox"/> State Library         |  |

Local Library: Multnomah County Library University Library: Portland State University  
Historical Society: Oregon Historical Society Other Repository: PPS Archives

Bibliography: Betelle, James O. "Architectural Styles as Applied to School Buildings." American School Board Journal. Vol. 58 (April 1919).

Cremin, Lawrence. The Transformation of the School: Progressivism in American Education, 1876-1957. New York: A. Knopf, 1961.

Cubberley, Ellwood Patterson. The Portland Survey: A Textbook on City School Administration Based on a Concrete Study. Yonkers-on-Hudson, NY: World Book Co., 1915.

Oregonian. "Mayor Lane and the Schools." 10-31-1906.

Oregonian, "Alameda School Alumni Celebrate 60th Anniversary," 5-10-1981.

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Patton, Glenn. "American Collegiate Gothic: A Phase of University Architectural Development." *Journal of Higher Education*. Vol. 38, No. 1 (January, 1967).

Portland Public Schools. School Chronology Binder. PPS Archives, Portland, Oregon.

\_\_\_\_\_. Alameda Elementary School. Facility Profile.

Powers, Alfred and Howard McKinley Corning, *History of Education in Portland*. [Portland]: Work Projects Administration, 1937.

Rippa, Alexander. *Education in a Free Society: An American History*. New York: Longman, 1997.

Sanborn Map Company

1924-1928, 1908-Dec. 1950 Sanborn Maps, Multnomah County Public Library, Portland, Oregon. Available at:  
<https://catalog.multcolib.org/validate?url=http%3A%2F%2F0-sanborn.umi.com.catalog.multcolib.org%3A80%2F>. Accessed June 16, 2009.

Sibley, Ernest. "Why I Prefer the Colonial Style." *School Board Journal*: Vol. 66 (January 1923).



Main building (230A), north (front) elevation looking southwest.



From left: 1954 Addition (230B), 1918 Portable Classrooms (230P2), Main building Auditorium (230A), and 1918 Portable Classroom (230P1), looking northward.



Main building (230A), west (side) elevation looking southward.



1992 Addition (230C), south and east elevations looking northwest.



Main building (230A) and 1954 Addition (230B), west (side) elevation looking southward.





Main Building (230A), detail of entrance space, looking north.



Main Building (230A), hallway with skylights and side door, looking west.



Main Building (230A), detail of mural at entrance to auditorium, looking south.



Main Building (230A), auditorium, looking south.

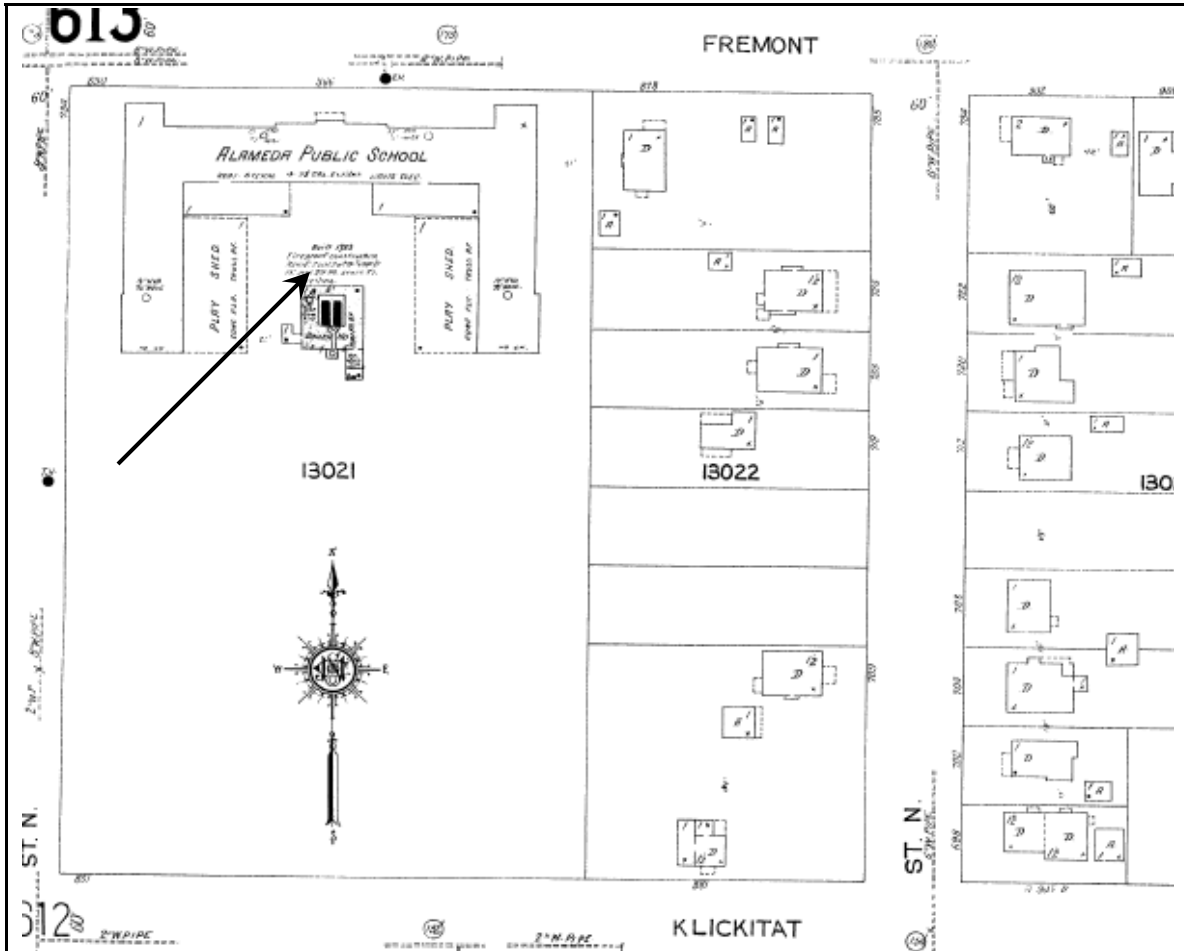


Main Building (230A), gymnasium,  
looking northwest.



# ENTRIX

Down to Earth. Down to Business.™



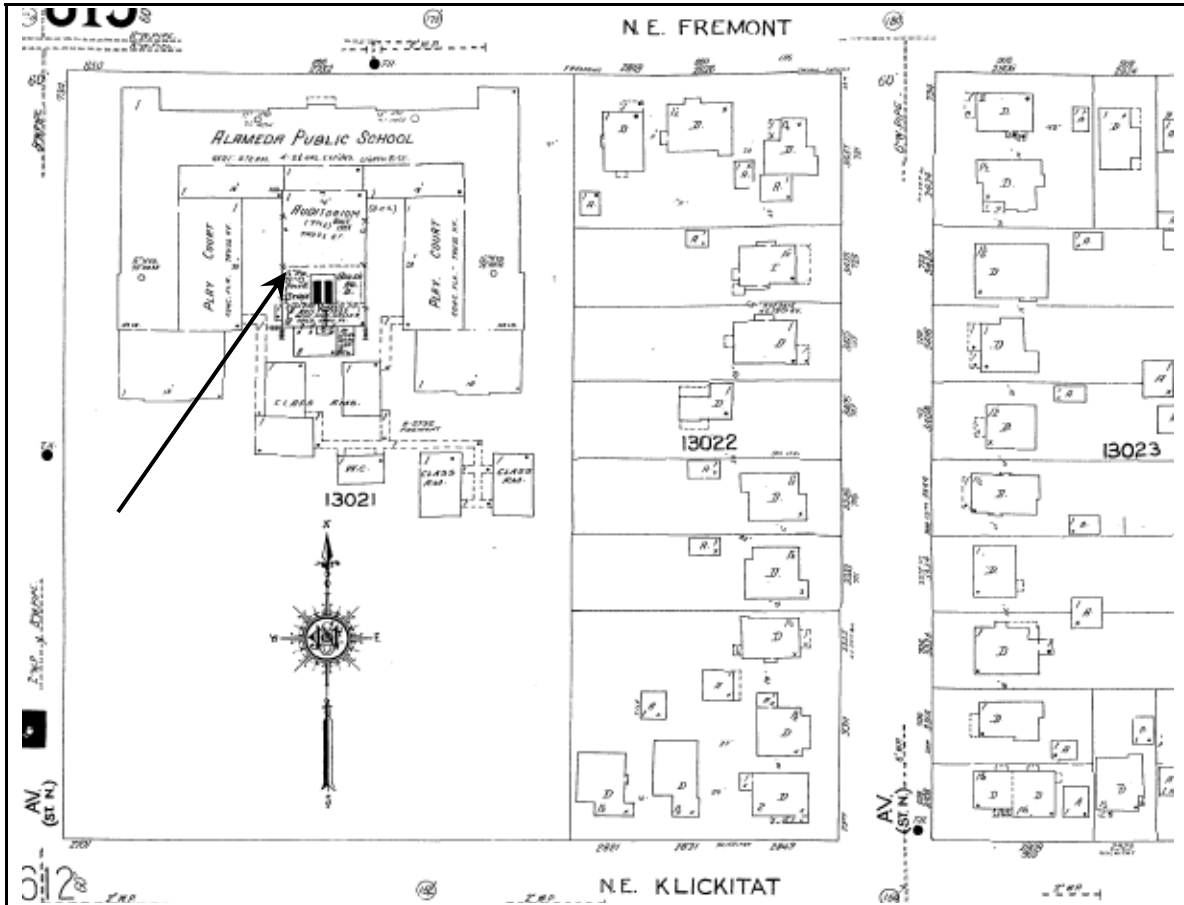
1924-1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, Portland, Oregon, Map 613. Arrow points to Alameda Public School.





# ENTRIX

Down to Earth. Down to Business.™



Updated to 1950, Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, Portland, Oregon, Map 157. Arrow points to Alameda Public School. Note the extensive expansion the school witnessed between the 1920s and 1950.

# Alameda School

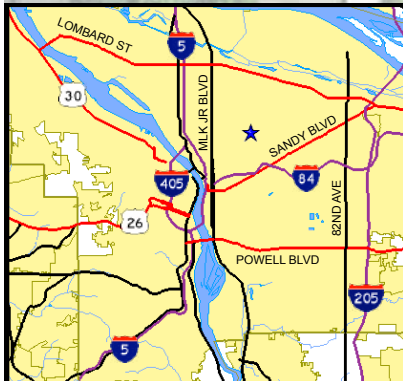
2732 NE Fremont St, Portland OR, 97212

[View Site in Google Maps](#)






Undated photo of Alameda School, looking southeast

Aerial photo © 2009 Metro, Portland OR Imagery Date: July 12, 2007



## Historical Significance and Building Integrity

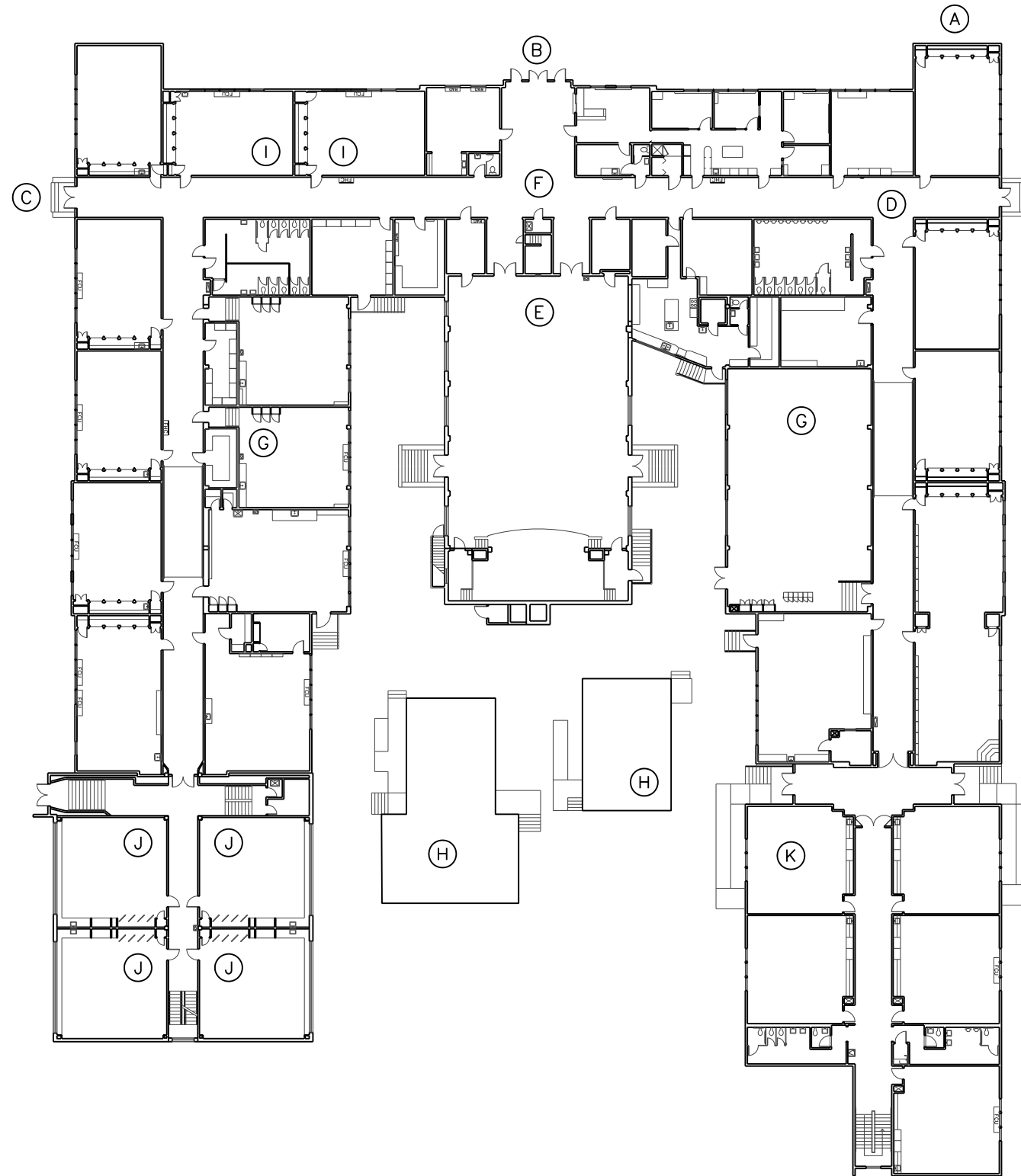
-  Contrib: High Significance
-  Contrib: Moderate Signif.
-  Non-Contributing



0' 50' 100' 200'

## Building Periods

1. Portables (230P), 1918
2. Main Building (230A), 1921
2. 2nd Unit Addition (230A), 1925
3. Classroom Add. (230B), 1934
4. Classroom Add. (230C), 1992



**KEYNOTES:**

- (A) THE PRIMARY 1921 BUILDING IS ORNAMENTED BY CLASSICAL ELEMENTS, WHICH INCLUDE BOXED CORNICES, CORNER BOARDS, AND BANDS OF MULTI LIGHT WOOD SASH WINDOWS.
- (B) THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING IS MARKED BY A PEDIMENTED PORTICO. A GARLAND IS LOCATED WITHIN THE TYMPANUM OF THE PORTICO.
- (C) SIDE ENTRANCES FEATURE FANLIGHTS, PILASTERS, AND PEDIMENTS.
- (D) THE BUILDING CONSISTS OF A U-SHAPED PLAN WITH AN AUDITORIUM SITED BETWEEN THE WINGS THAT FORM THE 'U' SHAPE. ADDITIONS (NON-CONTRIBUTING/NOT SIGNIFICANT) EXTEND OFF THE REAR OF EACH WING.
- (E) THE AUDITORIUM FEATURES AN EXPOSED TRUSS SYSTEM, PILASTERS, AND LARGE DOUBLE HUNG WOOD SASH WINDOWS WITH SIDE LIGHTS AND TRANSOMS.
- (F) THE INTERIOR ENTRYWAY TO THE AUDITORIUM IS MARKED BY INLAID WOOD MURALS THAT WERE CONSTRUCTED BY WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (WPA) ARTISTS.
- (G) THESE SPACES WERE ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED AS SHELTERED PLAY COURTS. IN 1925, THE PLAY COURTS WERE ENCLOSED TO FORM A GYM ON THE EAST AND CLASSROOMS ON THE WEST.
- (H) WOODEN PORTABLE BUILDINGS DATE TO 1918 AND HAVE RETAINED THEIR ORIGINAL WINDOWS AND FLOOR PLAN.
- (I) THESE CLASSROOMS WERE REMODELED IN 2002; THIS SPACE IS NOW USED AS THE LIBRARY.
- (J) 1954 CLASSROOM ADDITION
- (K) 1992 CLASSROOM ADDITION

**GENERAL NOTES:**

- (1) THE PRIMARY BUILDING IS CLAD IN BEVEL WOOD AND CAPPED BY LOW GABLED ROOFS WITH ROUNDED DORMERS.
- (2) THE CLASSROOMS FEATURE A RECTANGULAR PLAN WITH A RECESSED AREA FOR CUPBOARDS, SHELVES, AND CLOSETS.
- (3) INTERIOR ALTERATIONS INCLUDE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE ORIGINAL FLOORING (1955, 1984 AND 1985) AND SOME OF THE INTERIOR DOORS AND LIGHTING FIXTURES.



ALAMEDA ELEMENTARY - 230

2732 NE FREMONT ST 97212

PPS HISTORIC ASSESSMENT



DRAWING: ANNOTATED PLAN

DATE: Sept. 4, 2009

1 ALAMEDA ELEMENTARY - 1ST FLOOR  
SCALE: 1" = 40'-0"

