

# Oregon Historic Site Form

Edwards School  
1715 32nd Place  
Portland, Multnomah County

## LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 1715 SE 32nd Place  apprx. addr  
Portland  vcnty Multnomah County

historic name: Edwards School  
 current/  
 other names: Edwards Facility, Jonathan W. Edwards Elementary School

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

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

## PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: Building height (# stories): 1  
 elig. evaluation: not eligible/non-contributing  
 primary constr date: 1961 (c.)  secondary date: 1989 (c.)   
 (optional--use for major addns)

primary orig use: School  
 secondary orig use: Education-Related  
 primary style: Northwest Regional  
 secondary style: \_\_\_\_\_  
 primary siding: Standard Brick  
 secondary siding: \_\_\_\_\_  
 plan type: School (General)

total # eligible resources: \_\_\_\_\_ total # ineligible resources: 1  
 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: Dukehart and Kinne  
 builder: \_\_\_\_\_

comments/notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

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

farmstead/cluster name: \_\_\_\_\_ external site #: 246  
 (ID# used in city/agency database)

## SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ILS survey date: 7/10/2009  
 RLS survey date: 7/10/2009  
 Gen File date: \_\_\_\_\_

**106 Project(s)**



## ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

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

### Summary Description

Jonathan W. Edwards School is located at 1715 SE 32nd Place in Richmond neighborhood of southeast Portland. The 0.90-acre campus consists of a U-shaped building (246A, B) built in 1961. Recreational facilities include asphalt play areas located on the south side of the campus. The wood frame building is clad in red brick. Moderately sloped gable roofs cover the single story building. Fenestration consists of grouped metal frame windows. The building features characteristic elements of the Northwest style including a projecting portico, expressed wood structure, and low pitched gable roofs with projecting eaves.

### Architectural Description

Jonathan W. Edwards School is located at 1715 SE 32nd Place within the Richmond neighborhood of southeast Portland. The 0.90-acre campus consists of a U-shaped building (246A, B) built in 1961. Recreational facilities include asphalt play areas located on the south side of the campus. Sewallcrest Park is located to the south and west of the school grounds. Development in the surrounding neighborhood consists primarily of single family residences built after World War II.

Jonathan W. Edwards School features a U-shaped version of the finger plan. The U-shaped mass of the building rests on a poured concrete foundation. The primary cladding for the wood frame building is roman brick. The southwest elevations also feature concrete panels. Moderately sloped gable roofs cover the single story building. The eaves project to provide additional shading for the bands of aluminum frame windows which, along with the projecting eaves with exposed purlins on the gable ends, emphasize the horizontal profile and physical materials of the building. Characteristic features of the Northwest Regional style include pitched roofs, a projecting entry portico, broad roof overhangs, and expressed wood structure.

The primary entry to the building is at the northeast corner beneath a gabled portico. The roof of the portico is supported by four slender columns and wood purlins. The offices and playroom are located immediately adjacent to the entry. An L-shaped double loaded corridor with concrete block walls provides access to the classrooms. Tubular fluorescent lighting fixtures are affixed to a ceiling clad in acoustic tile. Flooring throughout the building consists of a mixture of 6"x6" and 12"x12" tile, carpet, and hardwood.

The playroom is located in the southeast corner of the building. Consistent with the Northwest Regional style, the sloping ceiling is supported by an expressed system of glulam beams. Steel exit doors provide easy access to the playground.

A wood door with a center light provides access to the classrooms. The classrooms are rectangular. Built-in cabinetry on the interior walls provides additional acoustical protection between the classrooms. The glulam beams that support the roof are visible in the classrooms. The classroom windows feature an operable awning window beneath a group of 3 fixed-frame windows.

The media center was added to the southwest corner of the building during a 1989 remodel. Wood bookshelves line the walls and divide the open room into smaller work areas. Other finishes include an acoustic tile ceiling with fluorescent lights and wall to wall carpet.

Since the construction of Jonathan Edwards Elementary School in 1961 there have been only minimal alterations to the building or campus. The south end of the west wing of the primary building was extended in 1989 to provide space for the media center and two additional teaching spaces. The only interior modification consists of changes to the classroom closets in 1987, and the addition of classrooms in 1989 to support new uses (Jonathan Edwards Facility Plan and Profile). Jonathan Edwards Elementary School retains integrity with its original plan and massing intact. The interior and exterior finishes are original.

## HISTORY

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

### Statement of Significance

In 1961 Portland Public Schools acquired land known as the Sewallcrest Site for the development of a new school to meet the rapidly expanding population of southeast Portland. Built in 1961, the school was named in honor of Jonathon Whitman Edwards, an English teacher who served as superintendent of the schools from 1953-1961 (Snyder 1979: 237). The school was constructed for \$220,638.85 during a period of modernization and new construction initiated by Portland Public Schools (PPS) after World War II. In 1945, the citizens of Portland approved a ballot measure that provided \$5,000,000 over five years to construct, improve, and rehabilitate its public school buildings (Portland Public Schools 1945: 2). The ballot measure enabled PPS to respond to the explosive growth in school-age children that had occurred in the city as a result of the arrival of defense plant workers and their families, as well as the deferred maintenance arising from the lack of funds during the depression (Portland Public Schools 1945: 2-3). Beginning with this initial bond measure, PPS embarked on an effort to improve its school facilities through renovations, additions, and new construction of over fifty schools between 1945 and 1970.

For the new building program, PPS schools adopted the call of architects and school planners across the country for new types of schools. Nationally known architects including Richard Neutra, the Walter Gropius led Architects Collective, and the Perkins Will architectural firm promoted new school types that reflected both evolving educational practices and design philosophies (Ogata 2008: 567-568; Perkins and Cocking 1949: 238-246). Emphasizing the need for economy and rapid construction, the designers adopted new materials that were standardized and mass produced including steel, plywood, glass block, and aluminum. In many buildings, architects achieved flexibility through the building's structure by employing non-load-bearing partition walls and zoned ventilation and heating systems. Folding walls and moveable cabinets provided additional flexibility intended to enable teachers to rearrange rooms based on lesson plan and activities (Ogata 2008: 568).

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Although many of the architects for schools in Portland continued to design their schools to be extensible, designers turned away from the two-story schools with centralized massing popularized by Naramore and Jones. Instead many architects adopted the principles of the Modern movement and its regional variant, the Northwest Regional style, choosing to express functional areas through massing and materials to create innovative forms (McMath 1974: 628). Classrooms featured extensive built-ins that included sinks, slots for bulky rolls of paper, and coat storage. Many buildings incorporated interior courtyards which facilitated access to the outdoors and expanded the opportunities for passive ventilation and daylighting.

For the design of Jonathan W. Edwards School, the firm Dukehart & Kinne adopted the building program and principles that dominated the discourse for school design during the second half of the twentieth century. The practice Dukehart & Kinne was formed by John Kistner Dukehart and Elizabeth Pennock Kinne in 1953. Born in Portland in 1908, Dukehart attended Portland Public Schools throughout his childhood, followed by Reed College. Dukehart obtained a degree in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1931. From 1924-1926 Dukehart worked at the firm A.E. Doyle as a draftsman, followed by the office of Johnson & Wallwork, where he eventually became a partner. Elizabeth Pennock was also born in Portland in 1908. In 1926 Pennock entered the Architecture program at the University of Oregon where she became one of only 6 or 7 women studying architecture. Although the Great Depression forced Pennock to withdraw from the program before obtaining her degree, she found work as a draftsman in the Portland firm of Johnson, Wallwork & Johnston. Pennock continued in her position after Johnston left the partnership. Pennock and Dukehart met at Johnson & Wallwork and continued to work together once Dukehart was made partner in 1934. In 1939, Pennock married Bruce Kinne, another architect employed in the firm. Elizabeth Pennock Kinne continued to work with Dukehart after he established his own firm in 1947 - John K. Dukehart & Associates. In 1953, Elizabeth Pennock Kinne became partner in the new firm Dukehart & Kinne. Elizabeth Pennock Kinne and John Dukehart worked on many significant Portland buildings including the Town Club, buildings for Reed College, and Binford Apartment complex Portland, as well as the Harvey Scott Memorial Library and the Jefferson School of Optometry at Pacific University in Forest Grove Oregon (Ritz 2003: 116-117, 226-227).

Although the school is associated with the PPS post-war construction program, Jonathan Edwards Elementary School is not recommended as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A or C. Archival research does not indicate that the building influenced educational practices or the design of other school buildings in the period, but rather reflects commonly used materials and stylistic details. Although the building displays the horizontal plan that was common in schools of the period, when compared with other schools of the period it is not a fully developed example. The portico and expressed glue laminated structure are characteristic features of the Northwest Regional style but there are stronger examples of the use of this style for school buildings in Portland. Although designed by Dukehart & Kinne, a successful architecture firm in Portland, archival research does not indicate that the school was a major commission.

## 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 Library

Historical Society: Oregon Historical Society Other Repository: PPS Archives

### Bibliography: Bibliography

McMath, George. "A Regional Style Comes to the City." In *Space, Style and Structure: Buildings in Northwest America*. Ed. Thomas Vaughan, 467-499. Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Wood Tradition Expands" 528-647.

Ogata, Amy F. "Building for Learning in Postwar American Elementary Schools." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 67, no. 4, December 2008: 562-591.

Oregonian. "Arson Delays School Opening." 9-05-1982.

Perkins, Lawrence B and Walter D. Cocking. *Schools*. New York: Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 1949.

Portland Public Schools Chronology Binder.

Portland Public Schools. *Repairing, Rehabilitating and Modernizing the School Plant*. Portland: Portland Public Schools. Office of the Superintendent, 1945.

\_\_\_\_\_. Jonathan Edwards Elementary School. Facility Plan.

\_\_\_\_\_. Jonathan Edwards Elementary School. Facility Profile.

Ritz, Richard. E. *Architects of Oregon. A Biographical Dictionary of Architects Deceased – 19th and 20th Centuries*. Portland: Lair Hill Publishing, 2003.

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Snyder, Eugene E. Portland Names and Neighborhoods. Their Historic Origins. Portland: Binford & Mort Publishing; 1st edition 1979.



**ENTRIX**

Down to Earth. Down to Business.™



Main corridor from front foyer (246A).



View of library (246A).



Typical classroom built-ins along interior wall (246A).



Typical classroom, note glulam roof beams (246A).



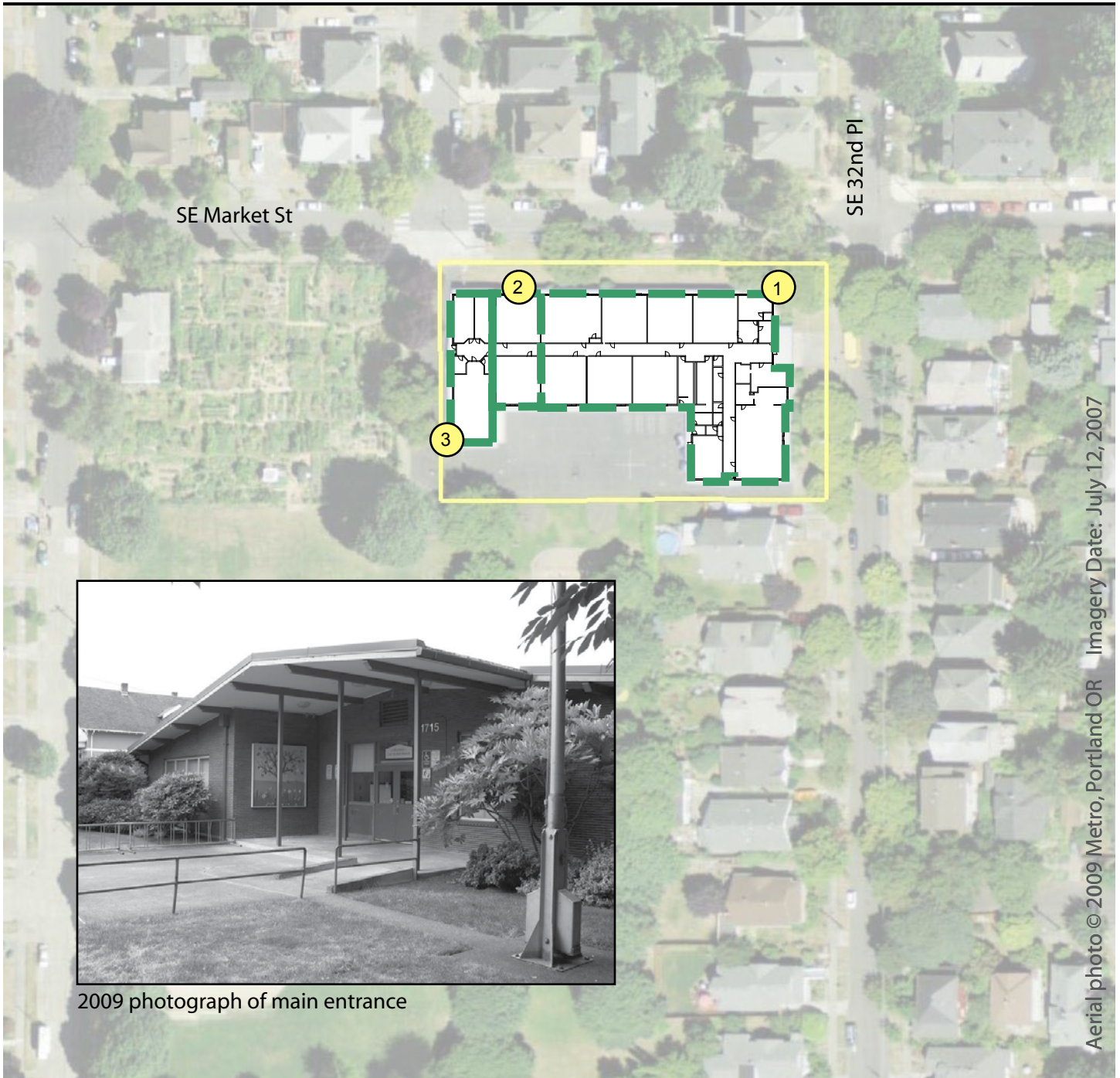
Play room, (246A).

**Edwards School  
Interior Photos  
ENTRIX, 2009**

# Edwards School

1715 SE 32nd Place, Portland OR, 97214

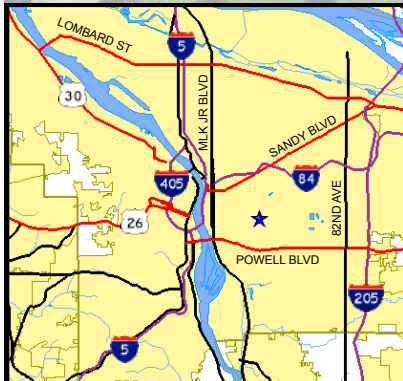
[View Site in Google Maps](#)






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



2009 photograph of main entrance



## Historical Significance and Building Integrity

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



## Building Periods

1. Main Building (246A), 1960
2. Classroom Addition (246A), 1962
3. Media Ctr Addition (246B), 1990