

Oregon Historic Site Form

Harrison Park School
2225 87th Ave
Portland, Multnomah County

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 2225 SE 87th Ave apprx. addr

Portland vcnty Multnomah County

Optional Information
assoc addresses:
(former addresses, intersections, etc.)

location descr:
(remote sites)

historic name: Harrison Park School

current/
other names: Clark at Binnsmead Elementary School,
Binnsmead Elementary School

block nbr: _____ lot nbr: _____ tax lot nbr: R33225

township: _____ range: _____ section: _____ 1/4: _____

zip: _____

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: Building height (# stories): 1

elig. evaluation: not eligible/non-contributing

primary constr date: 1949 (c.) secondary date: 1975 (c.)
(optional--use for major addns)

primary orig use: School

secondary orig use: _____

primary style: International

secondary style: _____

primary siding: Standard Brick

secondary siding: _____

plan type: School (General)

total # eligible resources: 0 total # ineligible resources: 1

NR status: _____
(indiv listed only; see Grouping for hist dist)

NR date listed: _____

orig use comments: _____

prim style comments: Streamlined

sec style comments: _____

siding comments: Variegated light red/tan

architect: Jacobberger/Stanton/Zeller

builder: McDevitt, Jerome (main); Wilmsen, Robert (addition)

comments/notes:

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

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

farmstead/cluster name: _____ external site #: 236
(ID# used in city/agency database)

SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: _____

ILS survey date: 7/8/2009

RLS survey date: 7/8/2009

Gen File date: _____

106 Project(s)

SHPO Case #	Date	Agency Effect Eval
	9/20/2001	No Effect



ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

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

Description Summary

The Harrison Park School (originally Binnsmead Elementary) is situated in the Montavilla neighborhood of East Portland at 2225 SE 87th Avenue. Harrison Park School is a one story building (236) with variegated brick veneer exhibiting limited elements of the International style. The campus was built in 1949, and contains the main building, several additions made in 1975, and another addition built in 1987. The building features a linear composition and asymmetrical plan. These International style elements, in addition to bands of aluminum windows, flat roofs, overhangs, and lack of ornamentation, serve to reinforce the ideals of functionalism and minimalism.

Architectural Description

The Harrison Park School (original Binnsmead Elementary) is situated in the Montavilla neighborhood of East Portland at 2225 SE 87th Avenue. The neighborhood consists of single family homes and industrial and commercial buildings. The Harrison Park campus occupies a long rectangular shaped parcel that is bound on the north by Harrison Park, on the east by SE 87th Avenue, on the south by industrial buildings, and on the west by SE 85th Avenue. The school is located in the middle of the 10.6-acre campus with parking provided to the east and south of the building, a playground to the west, and play fields to the north.

The 1949 Harrison Park School features a modified T-shaped version of the finger plan. The central spine of the building is oriented on a north-south axis that runs parallel to SE 87th Avenue. Classrooms, administrative offices, gymnasiums, a cafeteria, and a media center are located within the central spine of the building. The wing that forms the base of the "T" extends off the west elevation of the main building. On the interior of this wing is the auditorium. Additions built in 1975 and 1987 have been added around the west wing and form two enclosed courtyards. Doorways located along the corridors and the exterior walls of classrooms provide access to the courtyards.

The single story International style influenced wood frame building is clad in polychromatic brick. The main building features a linear composition which is emphasized by bands of decorative brickwork and brick soldier courses. Additions, which extend around the west (rear) elevation of the main building, are constructed of concrete block and feature metal panels along the upper walls. These concrete buildings break up the horizontal massing of the building. Aluminum fixed and hopper sash windows provide the fenestration. The buildings that make up the facility are capped by flat roofs and built-up roofs with clerestory windows. All of the buildings that comprise the Binnsmead campus rest on concrete foundations.

The primary entrance, which is located along the east (front) elevation, is recessed within the walls of the building. The entrance is marked by a projecting overhang. Three sets of metal doors with center lights, side lights, and transoms provide entry to the building. Secondary entrances feature metal doors with center lights.

The principal entrance opens into a foyer located along the main corridor. The foyer features brick walls with projecting rowlock courses and soldier courses around doorways. The double height foyer is lighted by clerestory windows and windows that flank the entrance. The main corridor extends north-south through the middle of the building. The double-loaded corridor features a brick wainscot and smooth plaster walls. Corridors within the 1975 section of the building feature painted brick and concrete block walls. Tubular fluorescent light fixtures are suspended from the acoustic tile clad ceiling in the 1949 section of the building, but are suspended from decking in the 1975 section. Flooring consists of asphalt tile and carpet. The building is heated by boilers that are located to the west of the auditorium. Metal heating units are located in the hallways and console units are located beneath classroom windows.

At the north end of the building are two gymnasiums situated side-by-side. The southern (1949) gymnasium features tongue and groove maple wainscot, maple fold-down seating, exposed ceiling beams, and fixed aluminum sash windows. The northern (1975) gymnasium features painted concrete block walls with pilasters and fixed aluminum sash windows. The auditorium, which is located roughly in the center of the building and within the west wing, features plaster geometric details and acoustic tiles on the walls. Corridors extend along the side of the auditorium and into the 1975 addition. At the south end of the building are the media center and the cafeteria. The cafeteria features concrete posts and an open kitchen.

Within the main building (1949), classrooms are rectangular in plan and feature a recessed closet and sink area along one wall. The rooms feature plaster walls with plywood wainscot and molding. Classroom doors are hollow core wood with center lights.

Alterations/Integrity

Harrison Park School has been extensively modified to meet the evolving needs of the Portland Public Schools. The original T-shaped building was constructed in 1949. In 1975, a large concrete addition was added around the west wing that forms the base of the T. This addition included space for a wood shop/arts and crafts room and additional classrooms. Also in 1975, a second gymnasium was added to the north end of the building. The school was further altered in 1987 with the reconfiguration of the cafeteria and library. These spaces were expanded, which included the reconfiguration of the east (front) elevation of the building. Also, a single story concrete building was added the west (rear) elevation of the 1974 addition. Other alterations include the replacement of the original oil burners with natural gas (2001) and the replacement of the original roofing material (2003) (PPS Facility Profile and Plans). These alterations have affected the design, materials, workmanship and feeling associated with the 1949 Harrison Park School.

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

During the late 1930s and 1940s there was a substantial increase in the number of children in the extreme east and southeast areas of Portland. The Rose City-Montavilla neighborhood, in particular, showed a significant increase in school age children (PPS 1945:18). Land for the Binnsmead campus was purchased in 1939 and 1947 for a cost of \$12,676 and the building was constructed for \$725,961 (PPS Chronology).

Built in 1949, the Harrison Park School (originally Binnsmead Elementary) was constructed 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 the 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).

The architects of the Harrison Park School, Jacobberger, Stanton & Zeller, adopted the building program and principles that dominated the discourse for school design during the second half of the twentieth century. Founded by Francis Jacobberger in 1930, the firm grew out of practice originally established by his father Joseph Jacobberger. Francis Jacobberger took on partners Ekmer Zeller and John Stanton in the mid-1940s. The firm's primary client, the Catholic Church, commissioned the Jacobberger firm to design Providence Hospital, Central Catholic High School, Mount St. Joseph Home for the aged, and a number of churches. In addition to the Harrison Park School, the firm also designed Lent Elementary (Ritz 205-206).

For the 1949 Harrison Park School the architects utilized the finger plan type that became popular for schools during the post-war period. Similar to other schools of this type, Binnsmead featured a single story modified T-shaped building with wings forming exterior courtyards. The construction of the facility, wood frame with brick veneer, allowed for economic building and ease of expansion. Mass produced materials including aluminum windows and glass block provided economical decoration.

In 1974, Binnsmead changed in use from an elementary school (Binnsmead Elementary) to a middle school (Binnsmead Middle School). To accommodate this change in use, the building underwent extensive renovations which totaled \$1.5 million (PPS Chronology). The firm of Wilmsen, Endicott, Green & Bernard designed the Modern style addition to the campus. Today the campus serves K-8th grades and is known as Harrison Park School.

While Harrison Park School is a notable historic building, it does not retain a level of historical integrity commensurate with other Portland Elementary Schools constructed during the same period and is therefore not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The 1975 additions and 1987 renovations have altered the plan and exterior and interior details of the original 1949 building. Due to the loss of integrity, Harrison Park School is not eligible under NRHP Criteria A, B, or 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 Library
Historical Society: Oregon Historical Society Other Repository: PPS Archives

Bibliography: Bibliography

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.

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

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

_____. School Chronology Binder. PPS Archives, Portland, Oregon.

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_____. Binnsmead Elementary School. Facility Plans.

_____. Binnsmead 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.



Main building (236A), east (front) elevation looking west.



1975 Addition (236B), west (rear) elevation, looking southeast.



Main building (236A), east (front) elevation looking southwest.



1975 Addition (236B) and Main building (236A), west (rear) elevations, looking northeast.



Main building (236A) south (side) elevation looking northwest.



Main building (236A), foyer, looking north.



Main building (236A), gymnasium, looking west.



Main building (236A), auditorium, looking southeast.



1975 Addition (236B), hallway between courtyard and wood shop/crafts room, looking southeast.



Main building (236A), cafeteria, looking west.

Harrison Park School (Binnsmead)

2225 SE 87th Ave, Portland OR, 97216

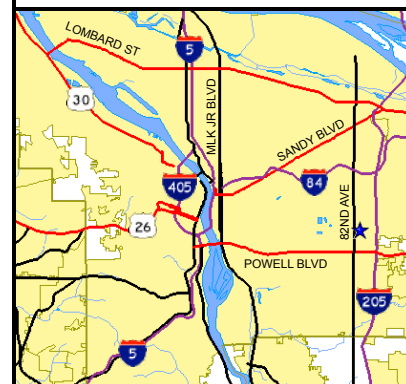
[View Site in Google Maps](#)

Building Periods




1. Original Building (236A), 1949
2. Classroom Addition (236B), 1975
3. Classroom Addition (236B), 1987



2009 photograph of the front entrance to Harrison Park School.



Historical Significance and Building Integrity

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

