

Oregon Historic Site Form

Maplewood School
7452 52nd Ave
Portland, Multnomah County

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: <u>7452 SW 52nd Ave</u> <input type="checkbox"/> appr. addr	historic name: <u>Maplewood School</u>
<u>Portland</u> <input type="checkbox"/> vcnt <u>Multnomah County</u>	current/ other names: <u>maplewood Elementary School</u>
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: <u>Building</u> height (# stories): <u>1</u>	total # eligible resources: _____ total # ineligible resources: <u>2</u>
elig. evaluation: <u>not eligible/non-contributing</u>	NR status: _____ (indiv listed only; see Grouping for hist dist)
primary constr date: <u>1948</u> (c.) <input type="checkbox"/> secondary date: <u>1954</u> (c.) <input type="checkbox"/> (optional--use for major addns)	NR date listed: _____
primary orig use: <u>School</u>	orig use comments: _____
secondary orig use: _____	
primary style: <u>Art Deco</u>	prim style comments: _____
secondary style: _____	sec style comments: _____
primary siding: <u>Standard Brick</u>	siding comments: _____
secondary siding: <u>Concrete: Other/Undefined</u>	
plan type: <u>School (General)</u>	architect: <u>Kroner, Ernst</u>
	builder: _____
comments/notes:	

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

survey project name or other grouping name	<u>PPS Historic Building Assessment 2009</u>	<u>Survey & Inventory Project</u>
farmstead/cluster name:		external site #: <u>192</u> (ID# used in city/agency database)

SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: _____
ILS survey date: 6/22/2009
RLS survey date: 6/22/2009
Gen File date: _____
106 Project(s)



West elevation facing east

ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

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

Summary Description

Maplewood Elementary School is located at 7452 SW 52nd Street in southwest Portland. The 4.30-acre campus consists of the primary school building (172A) built in 1945 with additional wings added in 1953 and 1954 and a detached portable classroom built in 1961 (172B). The school expresses a modest inspiration from the Streamline Moderne style and rests on a poured concrete foundation. Cladding on the wood frame building consists of a mixture of brick, glass block, horizontal board, concrete panels, and board and batten. With the exception of the barrel vault that covers the two story gymnasium wing, the mass of the single story school is covered by a flat roof. Fenestration consists of grouped metal frame windows.

Architectural Description

Maplewood Elementary School is located at 7452 SW 52nd Street in southwest Portland. Development in the neighborhood consists primarily of single family residences on large parcels of land built between 1950 and 2000. The 4.30-acre campus consists of the primary school building built in 1945 with additional wings added in 1953 and 1954 (172A) and a detached portable classroom built in 1961 (172B). Asphalt covered parking and play areas surround the school buildings. Play fields occupy the northwest portion of the parcel.

The school rests on a poured concrete foundation. The main mass of the building is L-shaped with projecting bays that create additional opportunities to provide daylight and natural ventilation. Cladding on the building consists of a mixture of brick, glass block, horizontal board, beveled stucco, and board and batten. With the exception of the barrel vault that covers the two story gymnasium wing, the mass of the single story school is covered by a flat roof. Fenestration consists of grouped metal frame windows combined with glass block situated atop the windows.

The primary entry to the building is at the northeast corner. A system of double loaded corridors provides access to various wings of the school. The administrative offices are located immediately adjacent to the entry. The majority of classrooms are housed in the north wing. Fluorescent lighting fixtures are recessed within the acoustic tile ceilings. Several of the corridor ceilings appear to have been lowered. Flooring consists of a mixture of 6" x 6" and 12" x 12" tile, carpet, concrete, and hardwood.

A two-story south wing provides space for the kitchen, cafeteria, music room, and computer laboratory on ground floor. The second story is utilized for the gymnasium and auditorium. The flat ceiling of the cafeteria is supported by glulam beams and steel columns. The walls of the room are paneled in Douglas fir but other finishes are utilitarian including the concrete floor and exposed ductwork. Although the roof covering the wing features a prominent barrel vault, the drop ceiling of gymnasium obscures the original trusses. The walls feature blonde wood panels.

The classrooms, primarily square or rectangular in shape, feature built-in cabinetry on the walls opposite and adjacent to the windows. Several classrooms have individual toilets. The classroom windows feature an operable awning window beneath a group of three fixed-frame windows.

Alterations/Integrity

Since the construction of Maplewood Elementary School in 1948 there have been extensive alterations to the building. The first building on the site was the rectangular gymnasium/cafeteria wing on the southwest corner of the property. In 1953 the main classroom wing was added to the north. In 1954 the building was expanded to the west to provide additional classrooms. In 1991 this wing was expanded again to create space for the office. A 1998 addition provided an interior connection between the north and south wings of the building. Other alterations include remodeling the music room and expanding and remodeling the media center in 1989 (Portland Facility Profile). Due to the extensive additions and alterations the building lacks integrity.

HISTORY

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

Statement of Significance

Built in 1948, Maplewood Elementary School was one of the first buildings constructed during a period of modernization and new construction initiated by the 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, the 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, the 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 Architects Collective – led by Walter Gropius, 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 partitions 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).

In 1912, School District Number 52 constructed a school in SW Portland at 7452 SW 52nd Street (Portland Chronology Binder). The school took its

Oregon Historic Site Form

Maplewood School
7452 52nd Ave
Portland, Multnomah County

name from the surrounding subdivision platted in 1902 that was named in honor of the "Maplewood" station on the Oregon Electric Railroad (Snyder 1979: 239). In response to population shifts, the school was transferred to District #1 in 1926. In 1936, District 11 assumed control over the school. In 1948 a gymnasium was built on the site for \$84,000. The remains of the 1912 school buildings on the site were demolished in 1952 to create space for a new eight classroom school building constructed for \$112,144.00. The building was quickly expanded with an additional 2 classrooms and an office for \$45,153.65. Upon completion of this wing in 1954, the new school was occupied. In 1957 District #1 annexed the facility back from District #11 (Portland Chronology Binder). In 1991 the 1953 wing was expanded again to create space for the office. A 1998 addition provided an interior connection between the north and south wings of the building. Other alterations include remodeling the music room and expanding and remodeling the media center in 1989 (Portland Facility Profile).

The original architect of Maplewood Elementary School, Ernst Kroner had considerable experience in the design of public buildings from his nearly 50 years of architectural practice in the Portland area. Born in Stuttgart Germany, Ernst Kroner studied at the Royal Gymnasium and the Polytechnicum. He immigrated to the United States in 1882 at the age of 16, residing in Wisconsin, New Orleans, Houston, and Chicago before coming to Portland in 1889. In 1900, Kroner started an architectural practice that he operated until 1950. Significant buildings designed by Kroner include the Office of the German Aid Society and the Odd Fellow Building in Portland. Kroner also designed Lincoln High School (the junior high school), Carnegie Library, U.S. National Bank, and the W.O.W. Building in McMinnville. He designed additional schools in Sheridan, Seaside, Gresham, and Astoria. Maplewood Elementary School is the only known building designed by Kroner for the Portland Public Schools (Ritz 2003: 234-235)

Although designed to be extensible, Maplewood Elementary School lacks integrity due to the extensive and incompatible additions and alterations and resulting lack of coherent building vocabulary. The school was built during the PPS program of post-war construction, but archival research does not indicate that it influenced the design of other schools buildings, the curriculum, or future planning for the schools, therefore, it is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A. Ernst Kroner was a prominent architect in Oregon but this building does not appear to be a significant example of his work. Although the building exhibits some characteristic elements of mid-twentieth century school design, due to the lack of integrity in comparison with other schools of this period in Portland, Maplewood Elementary School is not eligible for the NRHP 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 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.

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 (09-05-1982).

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.

_____. *Maplewood 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.

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.

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



West elevation facing east



North elevation facing southeast



East elevation facing west



South elevation facing north



Portables facing southeast



Corridor facing south showing added angle wall



Gymnasium facing south



Classroom built-ins



Cafeteria facing north



Media Center

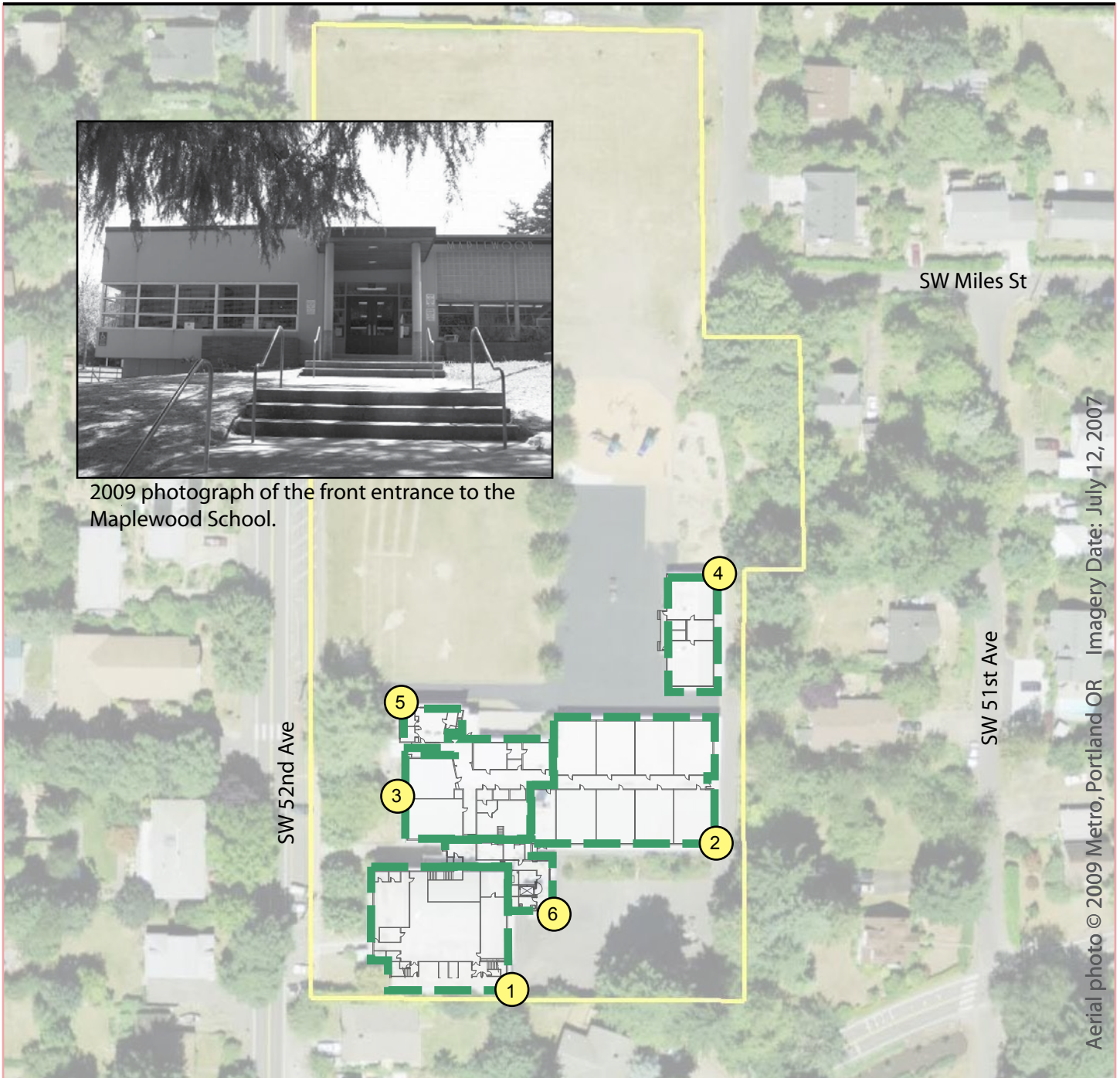
Maplewood School

7452 SW 52nd Ave, Portland OR, 97219

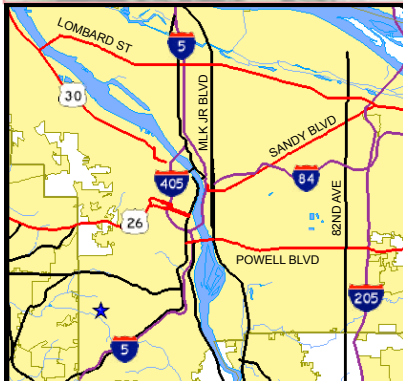
[View Site in Google Maps](#)






2009 photograph of the front entrance to the Maplewood School.



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



Historical Significance and Building Integrity

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



Building Periods

1. Original Building (172A), 1948
2. Addition (172A), 1953
3. Addition (172A), 1954
4. Addition (192B), 1961
5. Addition (172A), 1991
6. Addition (172A), 1998