

# Oregon Historic Site Form

Scott School  
6700 Prescott St  
Portland, Multnomah County

## LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 6700 NE Prescott St  apprx. addr

historical name: Scott School

Portland  vcnty Multnomah County

current/  
other names: Harvey W. Scott 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

total # eligible resources: 2 total # ineligible resources: 2

elig. evaluation: eligible/significant

NR status: \_\_\_\_\_

primary constr date: 1949 (c.)  secondary date: 1951 (c.)   
(optional--use for major addns)

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

primary orig use: School

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

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

primary style: International

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

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

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

primary siding: Standard Brick

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

secondary siding: Poured Concrete

architect: Whitehouse, Church, Newberry, & Roer

plan type: School (General)

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 #: 282  
(ID# used in city/agency database)

## SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

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

ILS survey date: 6/9/2009

RLS survey date: 6/9/2009

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 in the Roseway neighborhood of Portland at 6700 NE Prescott Street, Harvey Scott School occupies the northeast corner of Wellington Park. Designed to be expanded as enrollment increased, the campus is comprised of one story, brick-faced buildings that form a modified H-shape plan. The campus buildings include a 1949 main building (282A) in a modified h-shaped plan, a 1951 detached secondary classroom building (282B), a 1967 industrial arts building (282C), and a 1977 covered play shed (282D). The single-story brick buildings, separated by courtyard spaces, form a variation on a finger plan type school.

### Architectural Description

Harvey Scott Elementary School is situated in the Roseway neighborhood of northeast Portland. The neighborhood consists of a mixture of single family residences built primarily between 1930 and 1950 (Sanborn Maps 1924-1928, Sanborn Map updated to 1950). The primary entrance to the facility is from NE Prescott Street. The play areas and ball fields that occupy the south portion of the campus provide visual continuity with the tree shaded areas of neighboring Wellington Park. The base of the main building features a concrete foundation, while the exterior concrete walls are faced with all stretcher bond bricks exhibiting variegated colors.

The school facility consists of a main h-shaped building located to the south of NE Prescott Street. The centrally located entrance to the building from Prescott divides the north wing bilaterally into two classroom wings with a multi-purpose room/ gymnasium located immediately south of the main entrance. A chimney clad in variegated brick marks the location of the boiler and other facilities in the basement of this wing. The south classroom wing is accessed from a hallway adjacent to the multi-purpose room. An asphalt covered parking area occupies the area between the two west wings of the primary building. A covered play shed and a flat roof covered industrial arts building constructed of concrete block lie to the south of the primary building. A second classroom building, clad in brick, is located on the southwest portion of the parcel.

The single story buildings that comprise the school facility rest on poured concrete foundations. Brick laid in an all stretchers provides the primary exterior cladding. A flat roof masked by a parapet covers the main building. The parapet extends beyond the wall to furnish protection from the rain and shading for the classroom spaces. Fenestration on the main building consists of grouped aluminum frame window walls with a sloping brick sill. The 1951 classroom addition is covered by a flat roof with projecting eaves. Fenestration on this building consists of aluminum frame windows with a sloping brick sill that matches the sills on the primary building.

An entry court, flanked by office and administrative space, provides access to the primary building. A flight of stairs divides the oak paneled lobby into two seating areas. A row of glass block windows forms a clerestory that provides additional illumination for the space. A double loaded corridor extends east and west from the hallway, furnishing circulation to the classroom spaces. Secondary exits are located at the east and west ends of the wing. The corridor is lined with a tile wainscot. Tubular fluorescent light fixtures are suspended from the acoustic tile clad ceiling. Flooring throughout the school consists of linoleum tiles.

The primary assembly spaces are located in the central portion of the primary building. The gymnasium/auditorium retains its original flooring, paneling, and stage. Additional gathering space, illuminated by glass block, is provided in the basement cafeteria.

The classrooms feature a rectangular plan with built-in cabinetry set into the interior wall. The windows that line the exterior wall retain the original wood surrounds. Classrooms on the interior elevations feature wood exterior doors with the original brass hardware.

Two boilers located in the basement of the primary building provide heat for the building. Originally fueled by oil, the boilers were converted to gas in 1975.

### Alterations/Integrity

Within two years of the construction of the original building, the classroom building was added along NE 68th Avenue on the southeast portion of the school property. Alterations include the construction of the Industrial Arts Building in 1968, replacement of the floor tiles in 1984, and the replacement of the interior doors in 1989. Other alterations include remodels to various rooms including the library (1983), refinishing of the gym floor in 1987, and landscaping changes at various times.

Harvey Scott School retains a high degree of integrity. The modest additions to the school are located on the rear of the building. The buildings retain their original brick cladding, aluminum frame windows, and roof configuration. The configuration of the corridors, primary spaces, and classroom design is intact. Although the flooring, ceiling tiles, and lighting have been changed, other interior finishes including the tile wainscot in the corridors and wood window surrounds are intact. The main building and detached classroom building are contributing resources. The industrial arts building and covered play shed, due to their lack of association with the school's initial design and construction are not contributing resources.

## 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 1949, Harvey Scott 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 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.

Named for the famous editor of the Oregonian newspaper, Harvey W. Scott, Scott Elementary was built on largely vacant land in response to significant growth in school age children in NE Portland and anticipated growth on the periphery of the city (Snyder 1979: 241; Portland Public Schools 1945: 33). Between 1934 and 1944 the increases in enrollment in schools near present-day Scott Elementary were noted as significant. The large percentage increases in student enrollment during this period were witnessed at Rigler (62%), Gregory Heights (57.3%), and Rose City Park (38%) (Portland Public Schools 1945: 25). As a result of these increases, PPS planned to construct one to two schools in this area to relieve some of the strain caused by overcrowding in these schools (Portland Public Schools 1945: 120). By 1948, PPS had acquired two entire blocks of the Wellington Subdivision that included a number of houses that were either moved or demolished (Sanborn Fire Insurance Map updated to 1950).

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 Architects Collective – led by Walter Gropius, and Perkins Will 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, 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).

The architects of Scott school, Whitehouse, Church, Newberry, & Roer adopted the building program and principles that dominated the discourse for school design during the second half of the twentieth century. The firm's founder, Morris Whitehouse, was well versed in the design of public buildings from earlier work on Jefferson and Franklin High School with the firm of Lazarus, Whitehouse, & Fouiloux. With his eventual partner, Walter Church, Whitehouse also assisted in the design of the State Capital Building in Salem and the Oregon State Library. After Whitehouse passed away in 1944, the firm hired additional partners to assist with the challenges of post-war building in the rapidly growing State of Oregon. Important projects by the firm included the Lincoln Building in (1948); the State Public Service Building (1949) and the State Highway Office Building (1951) (Ritz 2003: 75-76).

Harvey Scott Elementary School is a modified version of the finger plan type school that became popular in the post-war period. Similar to other schools of this type, Harvey Scott School features a single story h-shaped building with classrooms separated by courtyards connected to a central spine of administrative and service spaces. The construction, wood frame with brick veneer, allowed for economic building and ease of expansion. Utilization of mass produced materials now readily available due to the conversion of the defense industries to manufacturing facilities, including aluminum windows and glassblock, provide economical decoration.

One of the first schools constructed during the PPS program of post-war construction, it is a good example of the finger plan utilized by many elementary schools in the Portland area and throughout the United States. Harvey Scott School retains excellent integrity with its floor plan, cladding, fenestration, and many interior finishes intact. The school is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A and 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.

# Oregon Historic Site Form

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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.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Atkinson 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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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, Oregon: Binford and Mort, 1979.



North elevation facing south



North elevation facing southwest



Southeast elevation facing southwest



Addition facing southeast



Brickwork facing north



**ENTRIX**

Down to Earth. Down to Business.™



Entry facing south



Entry facing north



Hallway facing south



Classroom facing west



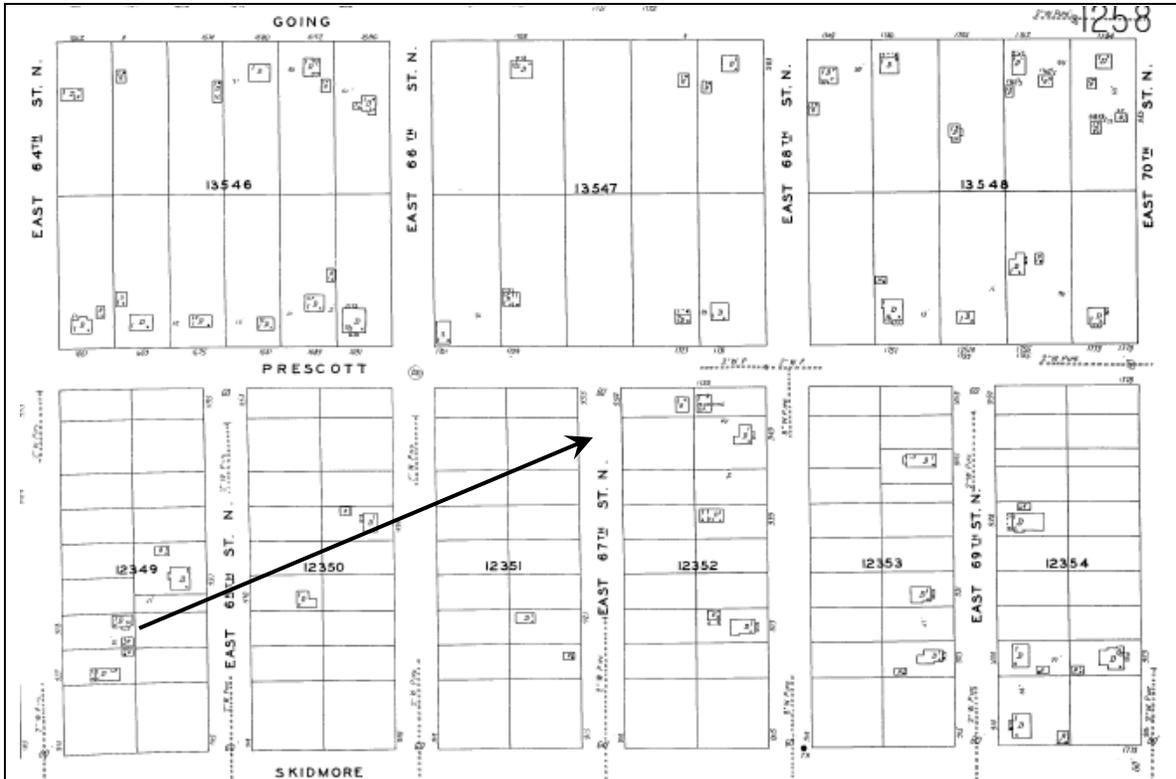
Lunchroom facing east

**Scott School  
Interior Photos  
ENTRIX 2009**



ENTRIX

Down to Earth. Down to Business.™

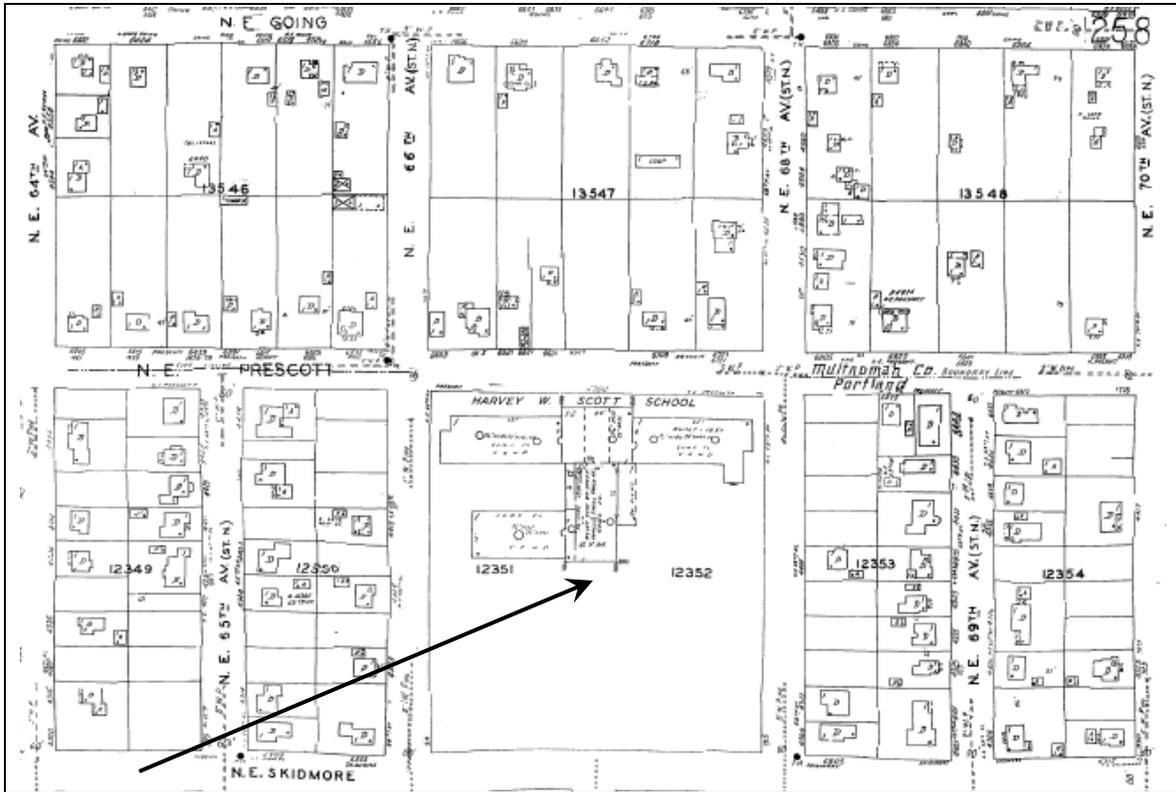


1924-1928, Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, Portland, Oregon, Map 1257. Arrow points to future location of Harvey W. Scott School.



# ENTRIX

Down to Earth. Down to Business.™

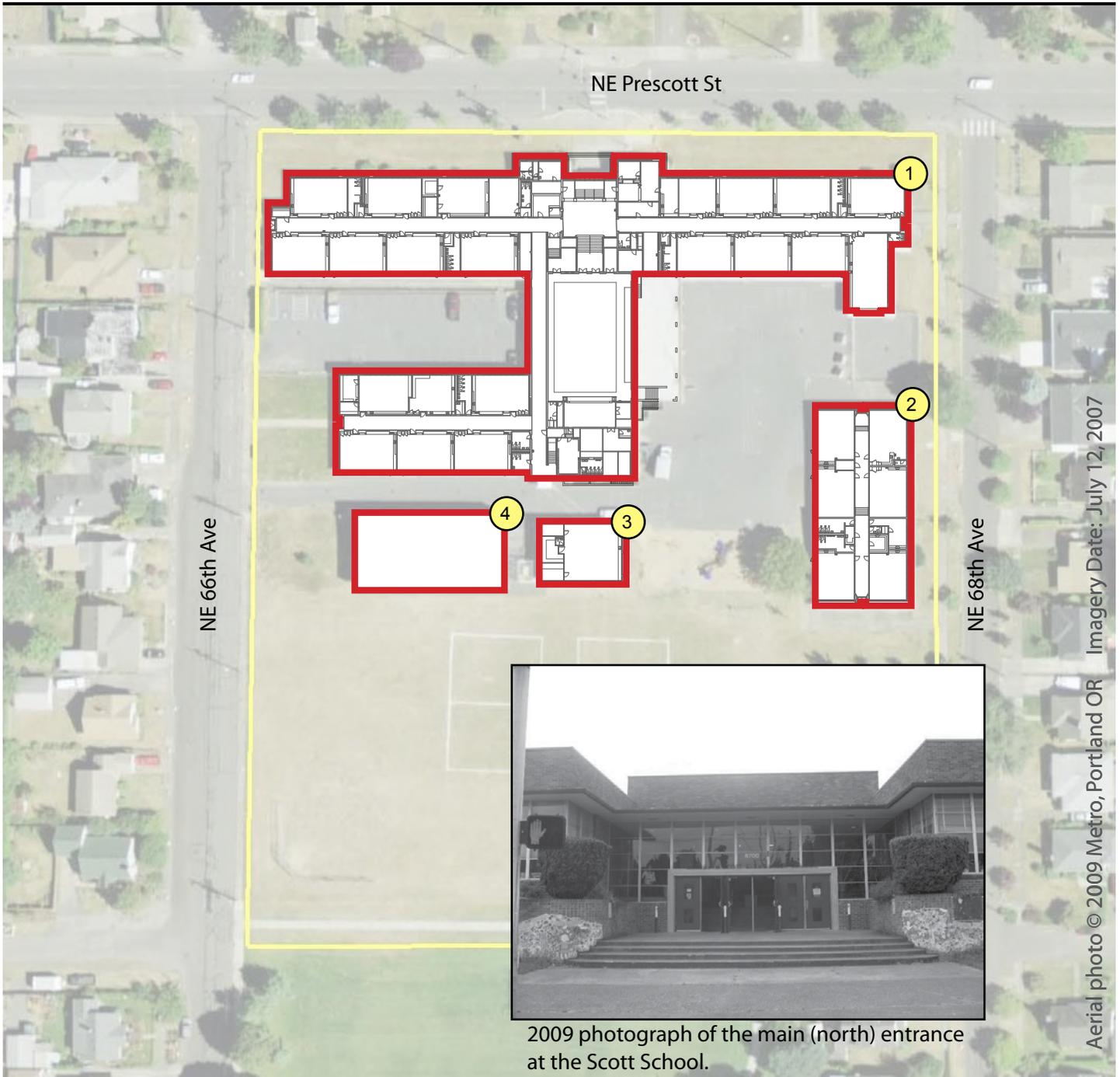


Updated to 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, Portland, Oregon, Map 1257. Arrow points to Harvey W. Scott School. Note street changes and removal of houses from school property site.

# Scott School

6700 NE Prescott St, Portland OR, 97218

[View Site in Google Maps](#)



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

2009 photograph of the main (north) entrance at the Scott School.



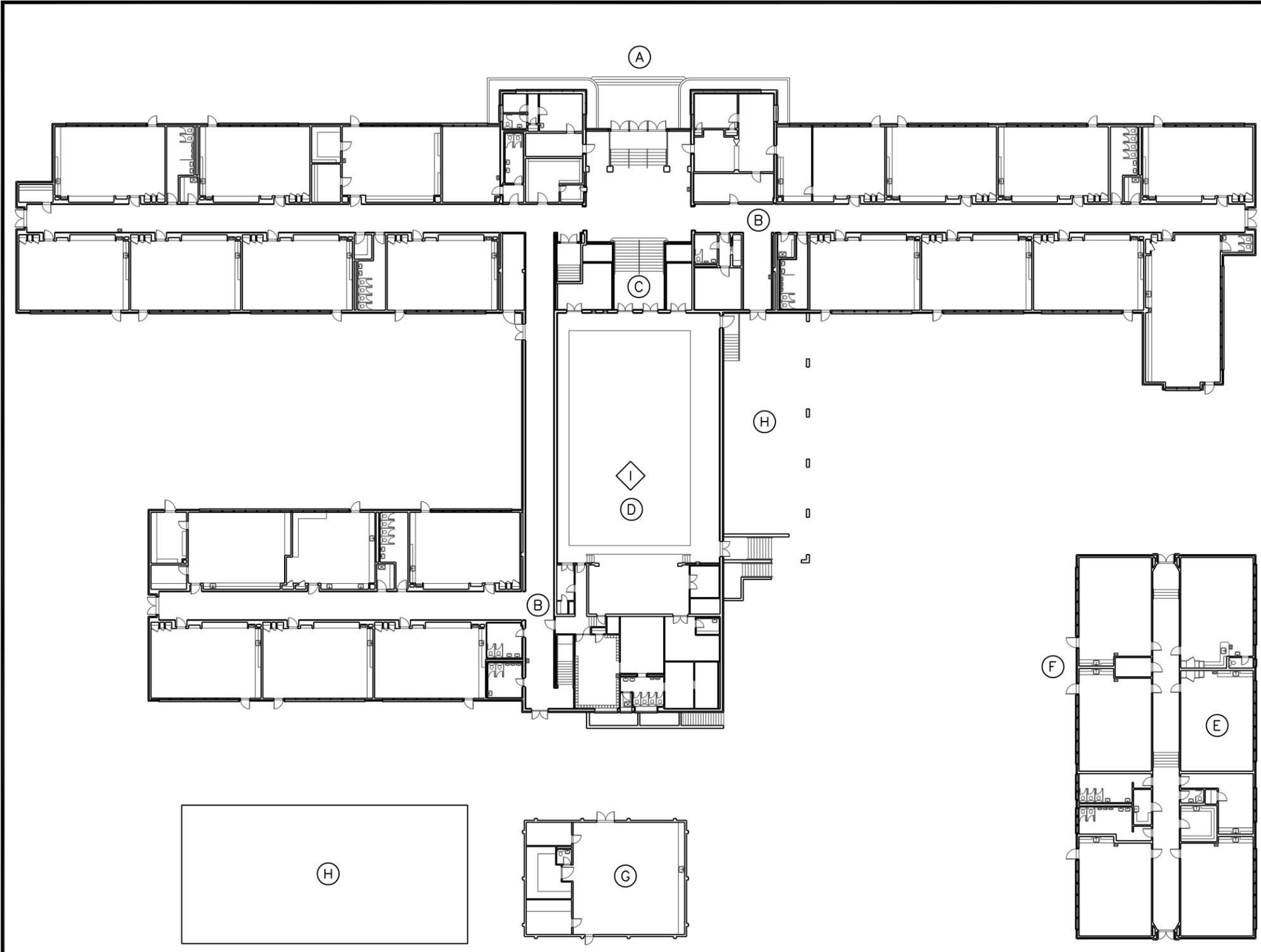
### Historical Significance and Building Integrity

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



### Building Periods

1. Main Building (282A), 1949
2. Classroom Add. (282B), 1951
3. Industrial Arts (282C), 1967
4. Play Shed (282D), 1977



KEYNOTES:

- (A) AN ENTRY COURT, FLANKED BY OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SPACE, PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE PRIMARY BUILDING. A FLIGHT OF STAIRS DIVIDES THE OAK PANELED LOBBY INTO TWO SEATING AREAS. A ROW OF GLASS BLOCK WINDOWS FORMS A CLERESTORY THAT PROVIDES ADDITIONAL ILLUMINATION FOR THE DOUBLE LOADED CORRIDOR.
- (B) A DOUBLE LOADED CORRIDOR, LINED WITH A CERAMIC TILE WAINSCOT, SERVES A CIRCULATION SPINE FOR THE SCHOOL.
- (C) A SHORT FLIGHT OF STEPS LEADS TO THE PAIR OF ENTRY DOORS THAT FURNISH ACCESS TO THE AUDITORIUM/GYMNASIUM.
- (D) THE GYMNASIUM/AUDITORIUM RETAINS ITS ORIGINAL FLOORING, BLONDE WOOD PANELING, AND STAGE.
- (E) 1951 CLASSROOM BUILDING
- (F) THE DETACHED WING THAT HOUSES 6 CLASSROOMS WAS ADDED IN 1951. THE ADDITION IS COVERED BY A FLAT ROOF WITH PROJECTING EAVES. FENESTRATION CONSISTS OF ALUMINUM FRAME WINDOWS WITH A SLOPING BRICK SILL THAT MATCHES THE SILLS ON THE PRIMARY BUILDING.
- (G) 1967 INDUSTRIAL ARTS BUILDING
- (H) PLAYSHED
- (I) THE BASEMENT CAFETERIA IS ILLUMINATED BY GLASS BLOCK WINDOWS.

GENERAL KEYNOTES:

- (1) THE CLASSROOMS FEATURE A RECTANGULAR PLAN WITH BUILT-IN CABINETY SET INTO THE INTERIOR WALL. THE WINDOWS THAT LINE THE EXTERIOR WALL RETAIN THE ORIGINAL WOOD SURROUNDS. CLASSROOMS ON THE INTERIOR ELEVATIONS FEATURE WOOD EXTERIOR DOORS WITH THE ORIGINAL BRASS HARDWARE.
- (2) BRICK LAID IN AN ALL STRETCHER BOND PROVIDES THE PRIMARY EXTERIOR CLADDING.

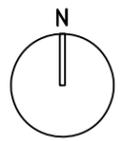


SCOTT ELEMENTARY - 282

6700 NE PRESCOTT ST 97218

PPS HISTORIC ASSESSMENT

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



DRAWING: ANNOTATED PLAN

DATE: Sept. 4, 2009