

Oregon Historic Site Form

Skyline School
11536 Skyline Blvd
Portland, Multnomah County

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 11536 NW Skyline Blvd apprx. addr

Portland vcnty Multnomah County

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

historic name: Skyline School

current/
 other names: Skyline Elementary School, Skyline Grade 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: 1939 (c.) secondary date: 1956 (c.)
 (optional--use for major addns)

primary orig use: School

secondary orig use: _____

primary style: Minimal Traditional

secondary style: _____

primary siding: Standard Brick

secondary siding: _____

plan type: School (General)

total # eligible resources: 1 total # ineligible resources: 2

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: Freeman, Claude N.

builder: _____

comments/notes: Previously determined eligible for the NRHP. Source unknown.

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

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

farmstead/cluster name: _____ external site #: 186
 (ID# used in city/agency database)

SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: _____

ILS survey date: 6/23/2009

RLS survey date: 6/23/2009

Gen File date: _____

106 Project(s)

SHPO Case #	Date	Agency Effect Eval
	7/18/2001	No Adverse Effect



ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

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

Description Summary

Situated on the rural fringes of northwest Portland, Skyline School is located at 11536 NW Skyline Road. Built in 1939, the school building (186A) is situated on a mostly grass-covered 5.84-acre campus. Additional structures on the parcel include a covered playshed located to the northwest of the main building and a garage building to the north. The school exhibits Minimal Traditional detailing. The modified U-shaped building is covered by a hipped roof and rests on a poured concrete foundation. The building is single story with a daylight basement. Cladding for the wood framing building consists of a mixture of brick veneer and vertical board siding. The school facilities include classrooms, a gymnasium, a library, and a cafeteria.

Architectural Description

Situated on the rural fringes of northwest Portland, Skyline School is located at 11536 NW Skyline Road. Development in the surrounding area is sparse with many large suburban residences set into the hills overlooking the Tualatin Valley. Facilities on the 5.84 campus include the school building and a covered playshed located to the northwest of the main building. The building sits at the crest of a hill with playfields located on a terrace below the main level of the building. Additional grass covered play areas are located to the south and east of the school. An asphalt covered parking lot is situated on the east side of the school.

The 1939 school exhibits Minimal Traditional stylistic detailing. The central wing of the modified U-shaped building is covered by a hipped roof and the projecting sides of the U are covered by flat roofs. The single story building rests on a poured concrete foundation with additional spaces located in a daylight basement. Cladding for the wood frame structure consists of a mixture of red brick laid in an all stretcher pattern and vertical board siding. The school facilities include classrooms, a gymnasium, a library, and a cafeteria. Fenestration consists primarily of multi-light triple hung vinyl windows placed in groups of five.

The primary entry to the school is recessed into a projecting gabled extension on the southeast elevation. The peak of the gable roof features metal lettering bearing the school's name. Additional decoration at the entry is furnished by two rows of soldier course that extend across the lintel above the entry. The verticality of the gable is emphasized by a band of soldier courses that rise from the lintel to the peak of the roof. The walls of the entry are angled, directing the visitor to the pair of entry doors capped by a multi light transom.

The interior layout of the main section of the school consists of a single loaded hallway plan. The original school building was rectangular. In 1948 two classrooms were added to the northwest side of the building, and in 1949 the gymnasium wing was added on the northeast side of the school. Flooring consists of a mixture of 12"x12" linoleum tile, hardwood, and concrete. Tubular fluorescent light fixtures provide illumination for the classrooms and the corridors.

The classrooms are primarily rectangular. The door to the classrooms in the original portion of the building is set within an arched opening. Some of the classrooms feature wooden built-ins including book cases, cabinets, and closets. The finishes in the remodeled classrooms are simpler than in the main portion of the school and consist of birch cabinets and minimal molding.

The double height gymnasium space is lined with birch panels. A stage located on the northwest end of the room facilitates its use as an auditorium. Built-in bleachers are located on the south side of the room.

Alterations/Integrity

The most significant alterations to Skyline School occurred in 1948 and 1949 when the gymnasium and classroom wings were added to the west and east side of the school. In 1956 a mechanical room was added to the north side of the west wing. Other alterations include the installation of ceiling tiles (1964), library remodels (1966), and replacement of windows in 1994. Other spaces including the principal's office, kitchen, multi-purpose room were remodeled and enlarged in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Despite the alterations, the school retains its integrity. The new wings were added to the rear of the original building, which maintained the corridor configuration, roof forms, and entry to the school. The original red brick cladding and gabled entry is largely intact.

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

Skyline School replaced a earlier school facility originally built in 1889 known as Brooks Elementary and Munson School before it was renamed in honor of the street on which its campus was located in 1909. This new facility was built by School District 4 and did not become part of Portland Public Schools until 1963, when it was annexed for a cost of \$1,750.00 (PPS Chronology Binder).

This school was one of the few built in the Portland area between the onset of the Great Depression and the end of World War II. The hipped roof and minimal eave and cornice line are commensurate with the minimal traditional tendencies of residences constructed in the 1930s and 1940s. The most significant character defining feature, however, is a front entryway emphasized by a chevron patterning of wire brushed brick. The entrance appears to be a design precursor for later schools constructed in Portland such as Astor, Faubion and Chief Joseph schools.

In its construction, the school represents a shift in utilized school building materials seen in the late 1930s with the development of inexpensive brick "vener" that could cover a wood frame (McAlester 1994: 230-231). This new construction departed from the two story reinforced concrete structures built in Portland that were designed to address demands by the public for "fireproof" construction (Oregonian 07-31-1910) and requirements by the Portland City Council that all schools constructed after January 1, 1911 would need to be made with fire proof construction materials (Powers and Corning 1937: 183). The wood frame structure with brick veneer was a solution widely adopted in the post-war period to facilitate rapid construction and expansion.

As the architect of Skyline School, Claude N. Freeman had significant experience in the design of schools and other public buildings in Oregon. A native of Kansas, Claude Freeman attended Oregon State College from 1908 to 1910. He subsequently worked with Frank Clark, an architect in Ashland, Oregon. In 1922, Freeman established a practice in Portland where he specialized in the design of schools. In 1942, Freeman established a partnership with Sydney B. Hayslip that was renamed several times, including Freeman, Hayslip & Tuft. Freeman was known throughout Oregon as a specialist in school design (Ritz 2003: 137).

Skyline School is recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for its associations with the growth of the Portland Public School district in the rural fringes of the city by the mid twentieth century. Despite several additions and the replacement of the original windows, the cladding, principal roof forms, and front gable entry door remain intact. Although Claude Freeman is a noted designer of school facilities, the building does not appear to be a significant example of his work. However, this school is one of very few constructed in the Portland area during the Great Depression and it anticipates the minimalist school designs of the post-war period through its use of commonly found building materials to create a unique composition above the main entry. The school is therefore 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

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

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.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. Great American Houses and their Architectural Styles. New York: Abbeville Press Publishers, 1994.

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

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

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.

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

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

_____. School Chronology Binder.

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_____. Skyline Elementary School. Facility Plan.

_____. Skyline Elementary School. Facility Profile.

Ritz, Richard. E. Architects of Oregon. A Biographical Dictionary of Architects Deceased – 19th and 20th Centuries. Portland: Lair Hill Publishing, 2002.



Main entrance, south elevation (186A).



Rear play area with play shed to the right (186B), looking south.



South and east elevations of main building (186A).



View of west and south elevations with view of 1956 addition.



View of gymnasium (186A) looking southwest with garage in foreground (right).

**Skyline School
Exterior Photos
ENTRIX, 2009**



Gymnasium with box seating area (186A).



Typical classroom in main building (186A).



View of lath and plaster walls (186A).



View of intact classroom built-ins (186A).



View of lavatory stalls (186A).

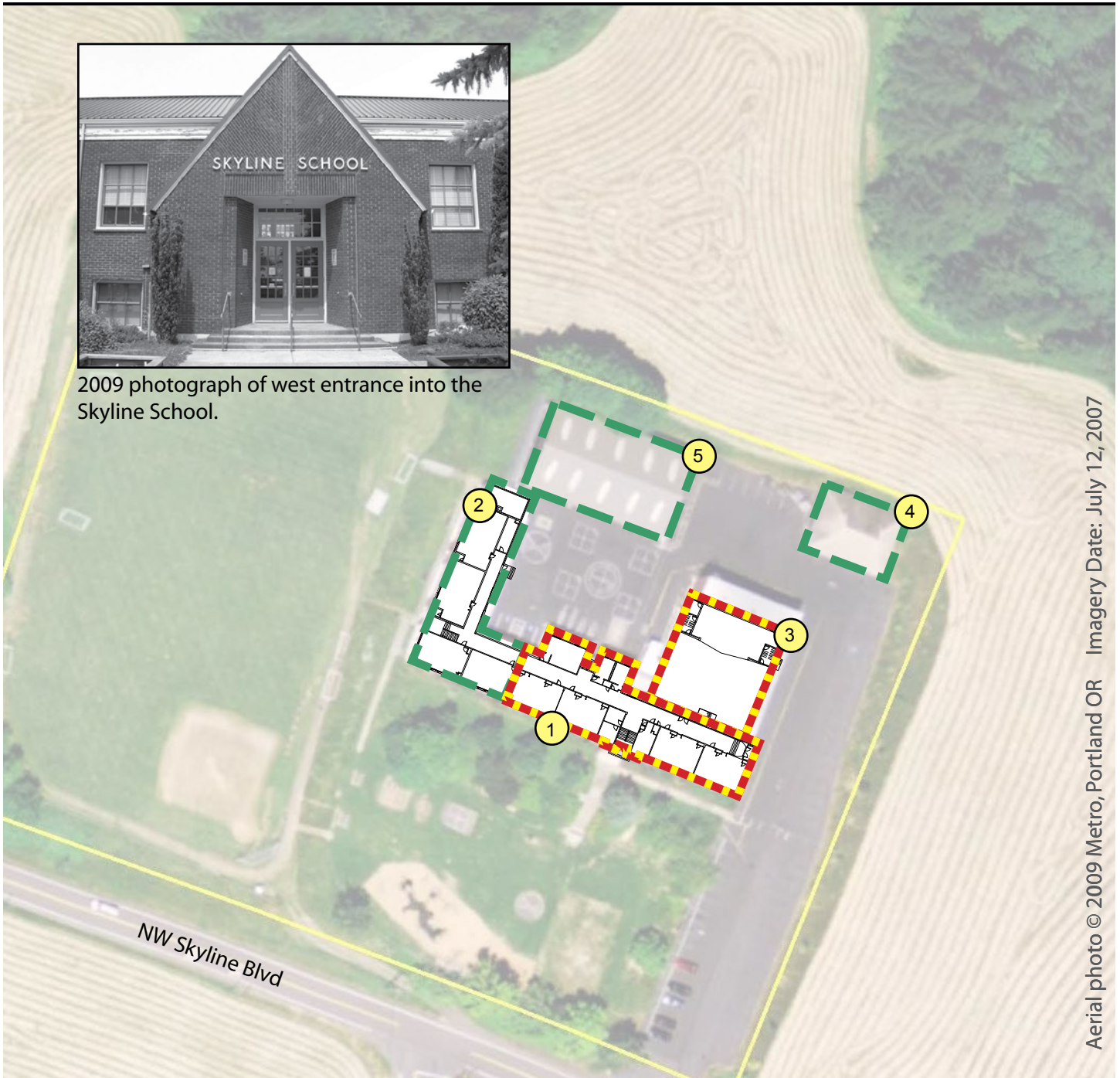
Skyline School

11536 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland OR, 97231

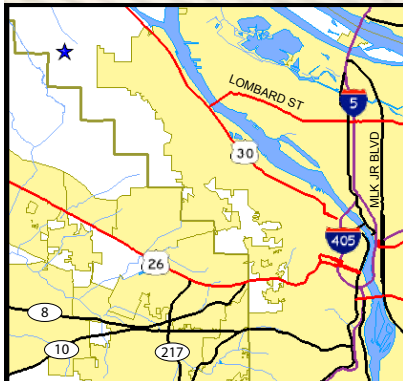
[View Site in Google Maps](#)






2009 photograph of west entrance into the Skyline School.



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



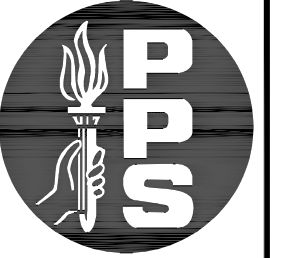
Historical Significance and Building Integrity

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



Building Periods

1. Original Building (186A), 1939
2. Classroom Addition (186A), 1948
3. Gym Addition (186A), 1949
4. Garage, 1970s
5. Play Shed, 1990s



SKYLINE ELEMENTARY - 186

11536 NW SKYLINE BLVD 97231

PPS HISTORIC ASSESSMENT



DRAWING: ANNOTATED PLAN

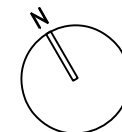
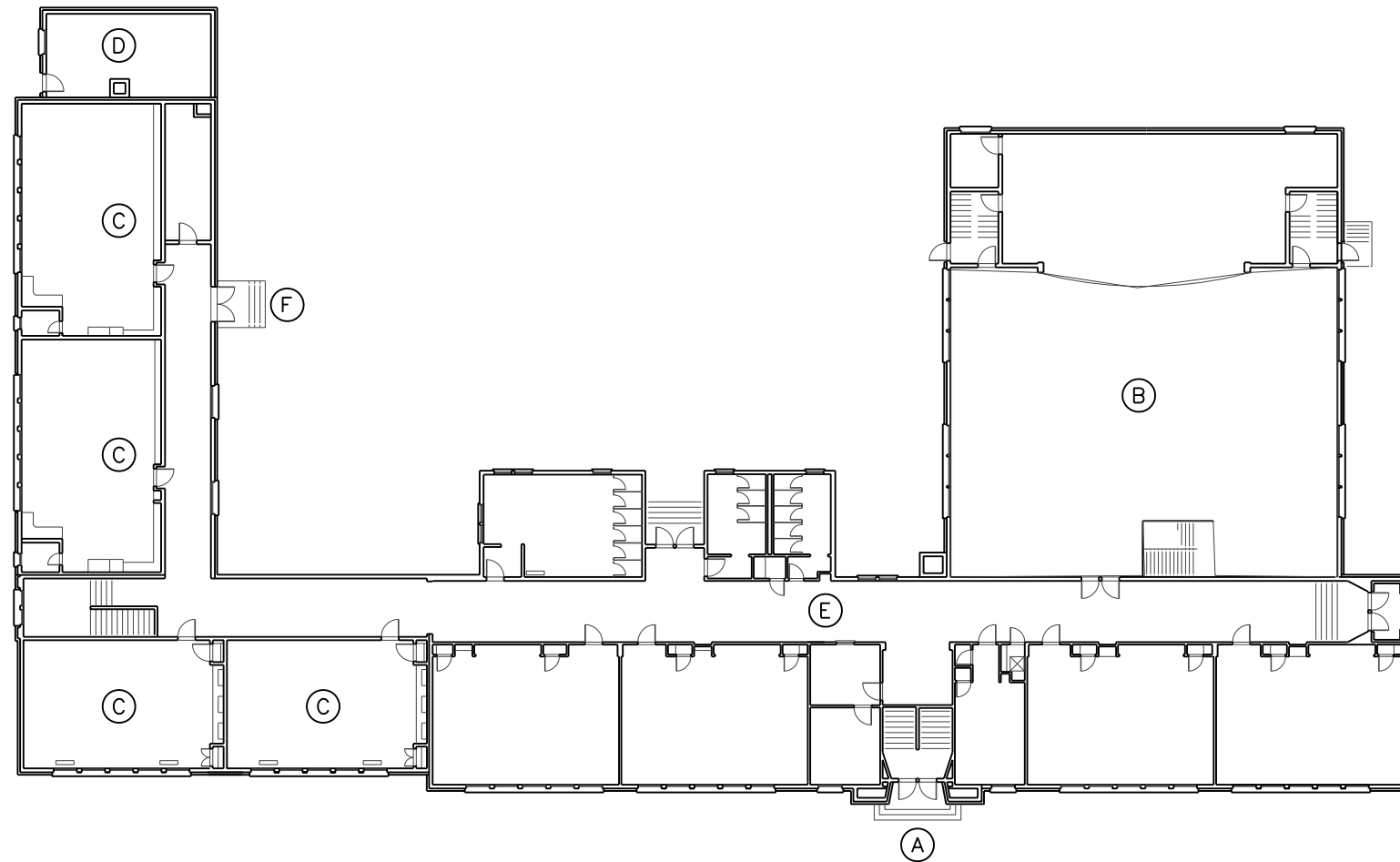
DATE: Sept. 4, 2009

KEYNOTES:

- (A) RECESSED FRONT ENTRANCE FEATURES THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEGREE OF ARCHITECTURAL EMBELLISHMENT. IT CONSISTS OF A PROJECTING CROSS GABLE EXTENSION. THE WIRE BRUSHED AND EVENLY FIRED RED BRICK IS LAID IN A CHEVRON PATTERN IN IMMEDIATELY ABOVE THE MAIN ENTRANCE. THE VARIEGATED BRICKWORK FOR THE ORIGINAL BUILDING (1939) IS OTHERWISE LAID IN AN ALL STRETCHER BOND PATTERN.
- (B) GYMNASIUM ADDITION (1949) FEATURES ORIGINAL CLOCK AND FIXED WOODEN BLEACHERS. THE SPACE ALSO CONTAINS A STAGE. CEILING IS NOW COVERED WITH ACOUSTIC TILE BUT THE EXTERIOR EXHIBITS A VAULTED ROOF.
- (C) TWO STORY, BRICK CLASSROOM ADDITION (1948).
- (D) ONE ROOM ADDITION (1956).
- (E) CORRIDOR DISSEMINATES TRAFFIC TO ALL SPACES WITHIN THE BUILDING AND FEATURES PLASTERED WALLS.
- (F) REAR OF BUILDING FEATURES BOARD-AND-BATTEN SIDING.

GENERAL NOTES:

- (1) ROOF IS CURRENTLY COVERED WITH STANDING SEAM METAL ROOFING
- (2) NEARLY ALL WINDOWS HAVE BEEN REPLACED



1 SKYLINE ELEMENTARY - 1ST FLOOR
SCALE: 1" = 30'-0"