

# Oregon Historic Site Form

Woodlawn School  
7200 11th Ave  
Portland, Multnomah County

## LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 7200 NE 11th Ave  appr. addr

Portland  vcnty Multnomah County

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

historic name: Woodlawn School

current/  
 other names: Woodlawn Elementary School

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

## PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: Building height (# stories): 2

elig. evaluation: not eligible/non-contributing

primary constr date: 1926 (c.)  secondary date: 1956 (c.)   
 (optional--use for major addns)

primary orig use: School

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

primary style: Late Gothic Revival

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

primary siding: Standard Brick

secondary siding: Cast Stone

plan type: School (General)

total # eligible resources: 0 total # ineligible resources: 4

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

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

prim style comments: Collegiate Gothic Style

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

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

architect: Jones, George H

builder: \_\_\_\_\_

comments/notes: HRI Rank II. Woodlawn Conservation District - Contributing Resource.

## GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

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

farmstead/cluster name: \_\_\_\_\_ external site #: 294  
 (ID# used in city/agency database)

## SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

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

ILS survey date: 7/9/2009

RLS survey date: 7/9/2009

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 Woodlawn neighborhood of northeast Portland, the Woodlawn School campus consists of a primary U-shaped building (294A) and three detached buildings (294B, P1, P2) that house classrooms. Located at 7200 NE 11th Avenue, the primary building was built in 1926 in the Collegiate Gothic style. The building is two-stories in height and constructed of reinforced concrete with brick veneer. It is ornamented with stone belt courses, quoins, and decorative motifs. Bands of aluminum windows with stone surrounds provide the fenestration. The primary entry to the building is through doors that flank a central projecting bay on the west elevation. Double loaded corridors provide access to the administrative offices, classrooms, and recreation spaces.

### Architectural Description

Woodlawn School is situated in the Woodlawn neighborhood of northeast Portland at 7200 NE 11th Avenue. The neighborhood consists of single family residences built between 1920 and 1950 in association with the Scoffin's Addition to the City of Portland (Sanborn Maps 1924-1928, Sanborn Map updated to 1950, PPS Chronology). The primary entrances to the facility are from 7200 NE 11th Avenue. Play areas and open spaces occupy the eastern end of the campus. To the south of the main building are two portable buildings (294P1 and 294P2) and a concrete block building (294B) arranged in a row from east to west. The portable buildings (1965, 1966) have gable roofs, aluminum hopper sash windows, and board and bat siding. The concrete block building (1966) features a flat roof and fixed aluminum windows.

The two-story building is clad in brick laid in an English bond pattern and ornamented with stone belt courses. Other ornamentation includes projecting bays, projecting windows, and stone decorative motifs along the crenellated parapet. Bands of aluminum windows with stone surrounds provide the fenestration. The front entrances are located along a central projecting bay that is ornamented with Tudor arched windows and quoins. Entrances consist of Tudor and segmental arched openings with stone surrounds. Square multi-light wood sash windows are located above the entrances on the north and south (side) elevations. The building is covered by a flat roof and rests on a poured concrete foundation.

Woodlawn School has a U-shaped plan with a gymnasium and cafeteria sited between the wings that form the 'U' shape. A double-height auditorium illuminated by three arched windows projects from the west side of the building. Rectangular classrooms and administrative offices comprise the other spaces located along the U-shaped corridor.

Short hallways, illuminated by windows that cap the entry doors, connect from the main corridor to entrances located along the west (front) and north and south (side) elevations. The double loaded corridors are lined with wood molding. The central corridor, which runs between the gymnasium and auditorium, features decorative brackets and wooden bulletin boards bearing the school's initial. Tubular fluorescent light fixtures are suspended from the acoustic tile clad ceiling. The hallways on the second floor feature skylights. Wood doors with center or side lights provide access to the classrooms. Flooring consists of concrete, square tile, linoleum tile, and carpet.

The classrooms feature a rectangular plan with a recessed area for cupboards, shelves, and closets. Some of the built-ins, particularly in the north wing, are original to the building. Classroom windows line the exterior walls and retain their wood surrounds.

The building is heated by boilers located behind the auditorium on the east (rear) elevation of the building. Heating units are located beneath classroom windows and within hallway alcoves.

### Alterations/ Integrity

The primary two-story Collegiate Gothic building was constructed in 1926. In 1956, four rooms were added to the southeast end of the building and in 1965 a locker room and classroom were added to each side of the gymnasium. Interior alterations include the partitioning of the gymnasium for use as a cafeteria (1952) and the renovation of the hallway and classrooms in the south end of the building into an administrative office, a library, and a storage space (1977). Also, the second floor hallways were reconfigured in 1977 to provide additional storage. Other alterations include the replacement of windows, floor tiles, interior doors, lighting fixtures, and some of the classroom built-ins.

In the 1960s three buildings were added to the Woodlawn School campus. These buildings are located to the south of the primary school facility and arranged in a row from east to west. The two portables (1965 and 1966) and the concrete block building (1966) have undergone minor interior alterations. While these buildings are associated with the expansion of the Woodlawn School campus, they are not associated with the development of the primary 1926 Collegiate Gothic building and therefore are not contributing historic 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 1926, Woodlawn School was constructed during a period of progressive era growth that responded to changing city demographics and ideas concerning safety, sanitation, and child centered instruction (Rippa, 1997: passim; Cremin 1961: 135-153; Cubberley 1915: 283-290). By 1905, it became increasingly clear that dramatic increases in school-age children outstripped the district's existing classroom capacity and existing schools could not effectively serve areas of the city with new residential development (Cubberley 1915: 283-285, 288-290).

George Jones, Portland Public Schools (PPS) District Architect who designed Woodlawn School, was one of the most influential district architects. Jones along with Floyd Naramore designed a large majority of the elementary and intermediate schools from 1908 to 1932. Beginning in 1908, with the emergence of the Bureau of Properties, PPS district architects took on a more formalized role in the design and maintenance of school facilities. The Bureau of Properties was created by PPS to centralize management of the district's properties (Powers and Corning 1937: 182).

For Woodlawn School, George Jones adopted the building program and principles that dominated the discourse for school design during the first half of the twentieth century. After several well-publicized school fires in U.S. cities, calls for a more fundamental change in the building construction began as early as 1906 (Oregonian, 10-31-1906). Soon after this meeting, on August 16, 1910, the Portland City Council enacted a requirement that all schools constructed after January 1, 1911 would have to be of fire proof construction (Powers and Corning 1937: 183). Soon after this meeting, on August 16, 1910, the Portland City Council enacted a requirement that all schools constructed after January 1, 1911 would have to be of fire proof construction (Powers and Corning 1937: 183). By 1914, in the first joint meeting between Portland city officials, Multnomah County Commissioners, and the school board, officials agreed to work with building code officials to encourage the use of fireproof construction and to implement fire safety measures in all existing and future schools (Oregonian, 03-31-1914).

Many of Portland's new fire proof buildings, such as Woodlawn, were constructed of brick and concrete. The school is similar in plan to the two or three-story I-shaped schools that were constructed with a lateral corridor connected to the front entrance by one or more short hallways. Like other PPS buildings constructed during this period, Woodlawn was constructed in units, sometimes referred to as extensible schools, and contained more differentiated and increasingly specialized space (Powers and Corning 1937: 182). The curriculum at Woodlawn included homemaking, industrial arts, remedial reading, speech correction, physical education, vocal and instrumental music, and special achievement classes in Spanish, art, math, and science (Walnut Park News, September 1963). Classrooms for home economics and industrial arts were more unique in layout and furniture.

Woodlawn School was constructed in the Collegiate Gothic style popular for educational buildings during the first half of the twentieth-century. This style, which is characterized by symmetry, bracketed cornices with pilasters, quoins, round-arch or square multi-paned windows, is well suited to portray the civic stature of schools of this period. Architectural revivals, such as Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Beaux Arts, were viewed as inspirational and appropriate for educational settings (Betelle 1919: 28; Sibley 1923: 66; Patton 1967: 1-8).

In the 1960s, the Woodlawn School campus expanded to accommodate more students and additional uses. Portable 1 (1965) provides space for one additional classroom and portable 2 (1966) provides space for two classrooms. A concrete block building (294B) was constructed in 1966 to create space for industrial arts courses. The design of Bldg 294B, made of exposed concrete blocks and concrete floors on the interior, reflects its industrial use.

While Woodlawn School is a notable historic resource and a good example of the Collegiate Gothic style and public school planning during the progressive era, it does not retain a level of historical integrity commensurate with other Portland schools constructed during the same period. Because of this reason, it is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The 1965 additions altered the original U-shape of the building by filling in the central bay on the east side and altering the symmetry of the building through the construction of additional classrooms on the south wing. Later interior alterations (1977) to classrooms and hallways reconfigured character defining spaces and finishes. The replacement of the original wood frame windows altered the building exterior and detracts from the Collegiate Gothic style details. Due to this loss of integrity, Woodlawn School is not eligible under either 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

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

Cremin, Lawrence. The Transformation of the School: Progressivism in American Education, 1876-1957. New York: A. Knopf, 1961.

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.

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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).

Portland Public Schools. School Chronology Binder. PPS Archives, Portland, Oregon.

\_\_\_\_\_. Woodlawn Elementary School. Facility Profile.

\_\_\_\_\_. Woodlawn Elementary School. Building Plans.

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.

Sanborn Map Company

1924-1928, 1908-Dec. 1950 Sanborn Maps, Multnomah County Public Library, Portland, Oregon. Available at:  
<https://catalog.multicolib.org/validate?url=http%3A%2F%2F0-sanborn.umi.com.catalog.multicolib.org%3A80%2F>. Accessed June 16, 2009.

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

Walnut Park News, September 1963.



Main building (294A), west (front) elevation, looking southeast.



Main building (294A), north (side) elevation, looking south.



Main building (294A), west (front) and south (side) elevations, looking east.



Industrial Arts Building (294B), east (side) and north (front) elevations, looking southwest.



Main building (294A), east (rear) elevation, looking northwest.



Main building (294A), main corridor, looking south.



Main building (294A), close-up of built-in storage (former Home Ec Room), looking northeast.



Main building (294A), cafeteria/gymnasium, looking east.



Main building (294A), second floor corridor (reconfigured 1977), looking north.

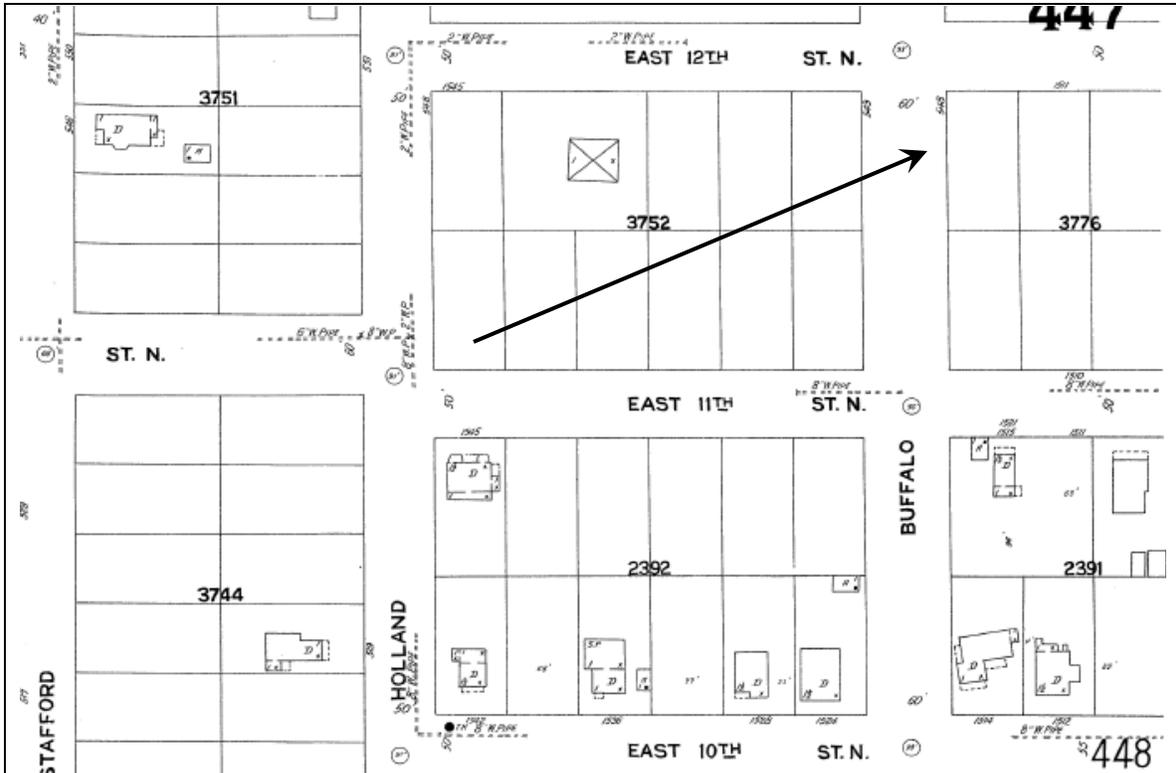


Main building (294A), auditorium, looking west.



**ENTRIX**

Down to Earth. Down to Business.™

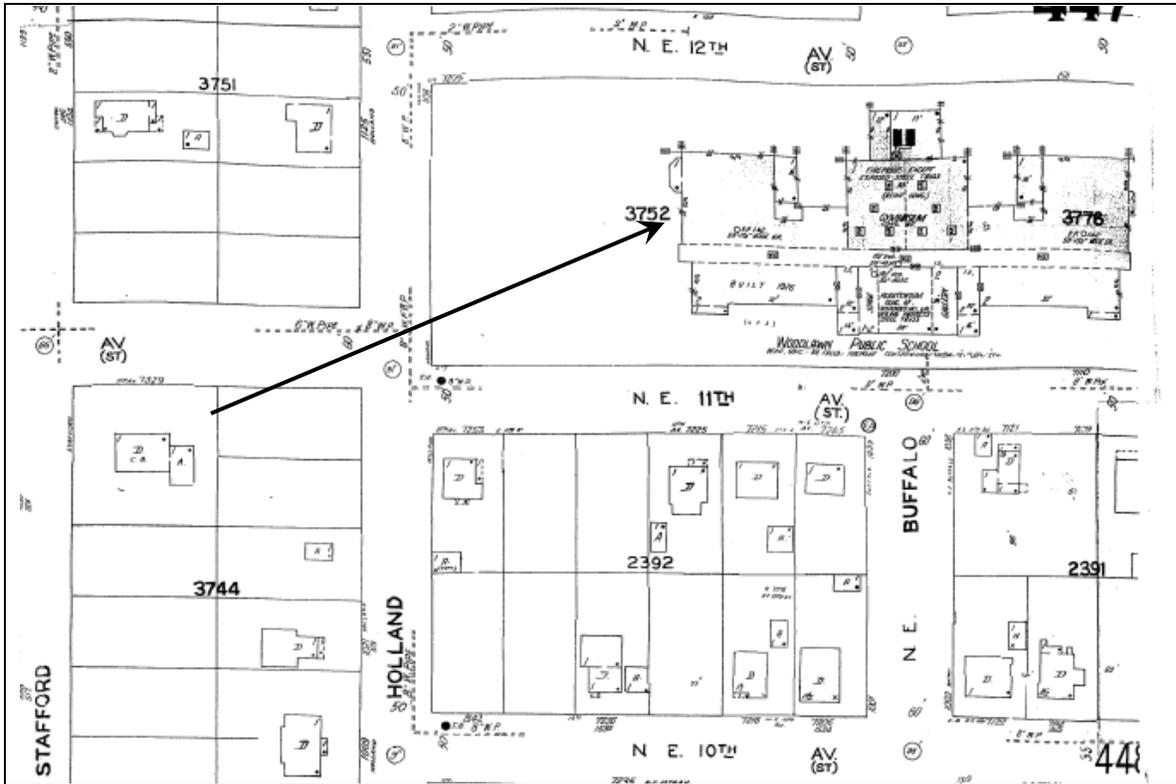


Updated to 1924-1928, Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, Portland, Oregon, Map 447. Arrow points to future location of Woodlawn Public School.



# ENTRIX

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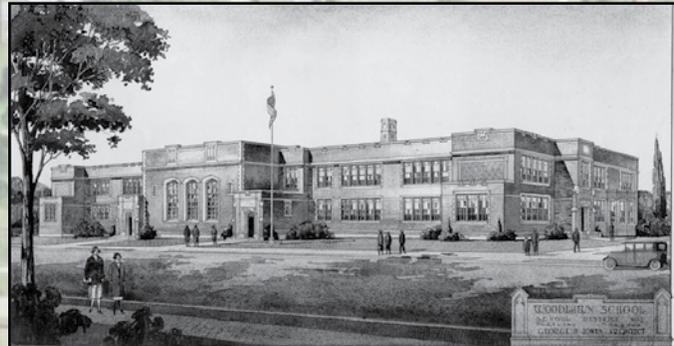
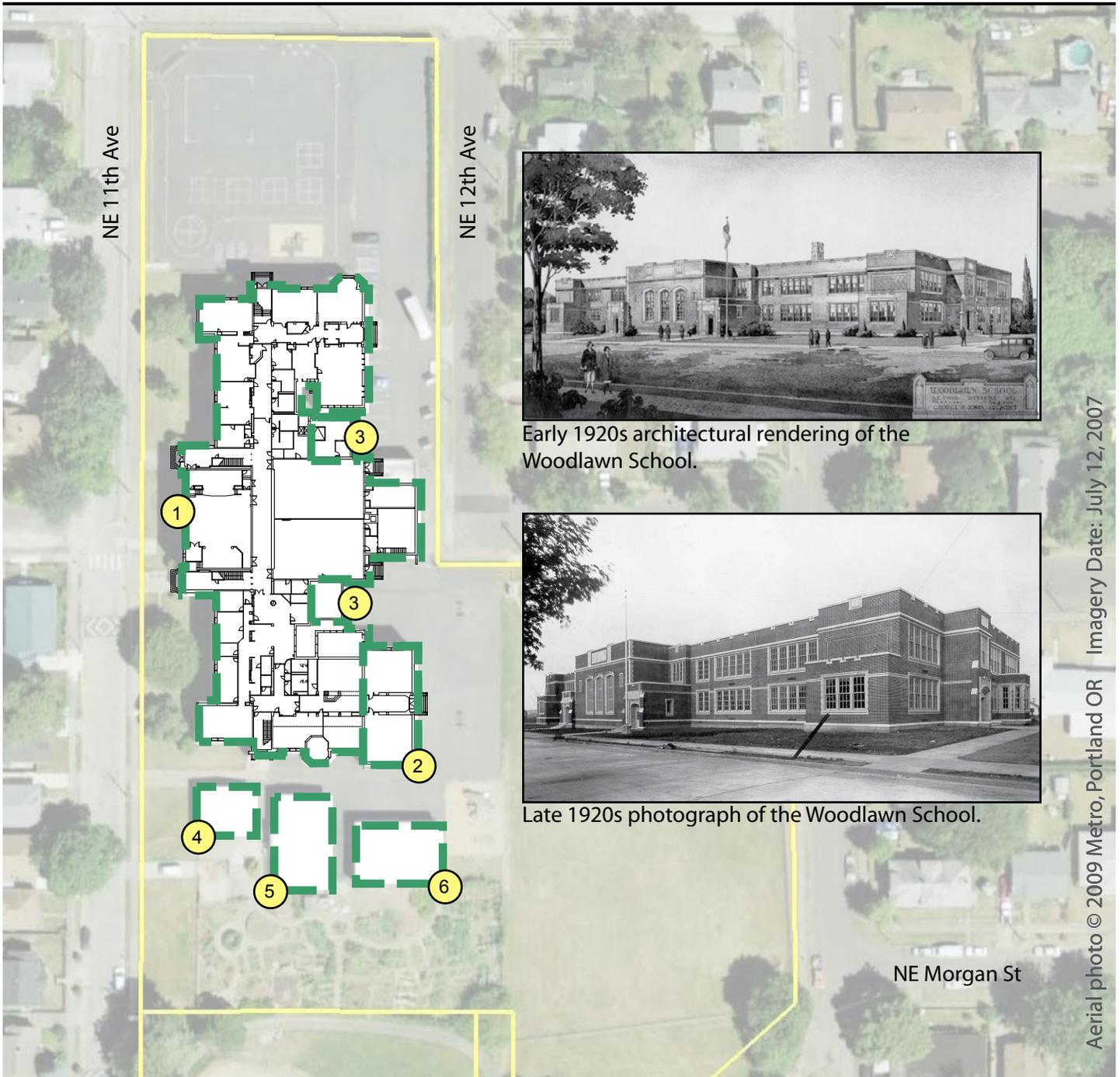


Updated to 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, Portland, Oregon, Map 447.  
Arrow points to Woodlawn Public School.

# Woodlawn School

7200 NE 11th Ave, Portland OR, 97211

[View Site in Google Maps](#)



Early 1920s architectural rendering of the Woodlawn School.



Late 1920s photograph of the Woodlawn 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 (294A), 1926
2. Addition (294A), 1956
3. Addition (294A), 1965
4. Addition (294P1), 1965
5. Addition (294P2), 1966
6. Addition (294B), 1966