

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM  
Individual Properties**

Agency/Project: North Powder Safe Routes to School Project		ODOT Key #: 16070		Federal Aid #: 5330(000)PE	
Property Name: Powder Valley School					
Street Address: 333 G Street			City, County: North Powder, Union County		
USGS Quad Name: North Powder Quad		Township: 6S	Range: 39E	Section: 22	
This property is part of a <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Grouping/Ensemble (see instructions)					
Name of District or Grouping/Ensemble:					
Number and Type of Associated Resources in Grouping/Ensemble: 1 / Structure					

Current Use: School		Construction Date: 1916	
Architectural Classification / Resource Type: Classical Revival		Alterations & Dates: N/A	
Window Type & Material: Fixed 9 pane & wood	Exterior Surface Materials: Primary: Brick Secondary: Concrete Decorative: Brick		
Roof Type & Material: Flat, with parapet			
Condition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor		Integrity: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	



View: A detailed image facing west onto the front/main entrance of school. Wikipedia, 2010.

<b>Preliminary National Register Findings:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> National Register listed	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potentially Eligible: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individually <input type="checkbox"/> As part of District			
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> In current state <input type="checkbox"/> Irretrievable integrity loss <input type="checkbox"/> Lacks Distinction <input type="checkbox"/> Not 50 Years			
<b>State Historic Preservation Office Comments:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Concur: <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Eligible Individually <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Eligible as part of District <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible			
Signed _____		Date _____	
<b>Comments:</b>			

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Street Address: 333 G Street	City, County: North Powder, Union County
Architects, Builders or Designers (if known): Architects: Tourtellotte & Hummel	

*General description of Properties (including district boundaries & approximate dates of development), Significance Statement, and Sources. (Use continuation sheets if necessary):*

The Powder Valley School is located at 333 G Street in North Powder, Oregon, in Union County. Constructed out of the necessity for the growing population of North Powder, the city selected then-Portland architects Tourtellotte and Hummel to develop plans for a “modern” school. (The Oregonian, 04/01/1916) The firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel expanded to Portland in 1913 all-the-while leaving their distinctive mark on the state of Idaho. Tourtellotte and Hummel initially worked out of Boise completing work anywhere from schools, to universities, to churches, to the Boise City National Bank, to Carnegie Library, and eventually cumulating to the Idaho State Capitol. Even though Tourtellotte and Hummel monopolized the architecture scene in Idaho, they frequently bid for work in Oregon and Washington, even before extending to Portland. Since the firm specialized in schoolhouses, North Powder fits perfectly into their practice.

Built in 1916, Powder Valley School invoked the Classical Revival style with a façade of white pressed brick, trimmed with white cast stone. The period of significance spans through the year of 1916, when the schoolhouse was contracted, built, and opened. The boundary of the site follows the envelope of the building. The eligible resources are limited to the Powder Valley School, excluding the school shed, gymnasium, and line of trees located in front of the eastern elevation. This historic resource is significant at a local and state level, fulfilling Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places for its architecture.

**STYLE**

Tourtellotte and Hummel chose to construct the Powder Valley School in the Classical Revival style. Popular during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Classical Revival became synonymous with public structures, and Tourtellotte and Hummel developed the school in fashion with their public buildings. “The [Powder Valley School] is designed in the classical style of architecture and is to have an exterior of white pressed brick, trimmed with white cast stone, giving the structure the appearance of an enlarged piece of marble statuary.” (The Oregonian, 04/23/1916) The material choice of white pressed brick is common with this style since “[s]tone, especially marble and smooth-faced limestone ashlar, was a favorite facing material.” (Poppeliers and Chambers, 98) The school’s entryway flanked by four pilaster columns denotes Classical Revival as well, as Classical Revival entryways are “usually supported by four simple columns (Roman, Doric or Tuscan types).” Also, along the cornice of the entire structure, there are truncated dentils, a frequent classical feature. (McAlester, 169) The overall symmetry of the school building also gives recognition to classicism. Generally though, the Powder Valley School is subdued; its Classical Revival characteristics are modest, accents at best, following the architectural techniques of Tourtellotte and Hummel. Tourtellotte and Hummel were known for their “schools to be built to several fairly standard plans, but they were wrapped in the vaguely classical packages considered peculiarly appropriate to the business of civilizing the young ... Each school was modified enough in detail that it could stand as an expression of its district’s identity.” (Wright and Reitzes, 20) Since North Powder was primarily an agricultural area, a high style school would be out of place. Therefore, the modest Classical Revival mimics the utilitarian lifestyle of the North Powder community.

**HISTORY**

The town of North Powder developed initially developed as “a stagecoach stop in the 1860s along the route of the Oregon Trail.” (Engeman, 272) Opening a post office in 1866, North Powder did not become incorporated until 1903. By this time, the town, platted in 1885, established itself as an important stop for “the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company (absorbed by the Union Pacific Railroad in 1890).” (Bailey, 46) The railroad simulated the economy allowing flour, grain, livestock, and lumber to be easily transported from North Powder (and other regions in close proximity) to locations throughout the state. (Bailey, 70) North Powder also hosted an icehouse that supplied to the refrigerator cars of Snake River fruit, or Pacific Fruit Express, on their journey to Portland. (Bailey, 109) The icehouse paired with the shipping and supplying of agricultural goods caused North Powder to prosper. In 1910, North Powder’s population estimated at 455,” rising to a high point of 613 in 1920.” (Engeman, 272) It is during these years when North Powder developed into an increasingly profitable town; a town whose growing population and wealth demanded a new school.

On March 27, 1916, the Oregonian noted that “[a]n election was held [in North Powder] today for the proposed bonding of the school district for \$25,000 to build and equip a new school. The result was an almost unanimous vote for the bond.” By April 1, 1916, the Oregonian already noted that, “Tourtell[ot]te and Hummel, of Portland, were selected as architects. The building will be modern in every way, and built of white pressed brick. There will be nine classrooms, an auditorium seating 400 people, domestic science and manual training rooms, all equipped with artesian water,” made possible by the artesian well on the premises. The city considered the inclusion of the independent water plant as a special and major feature to their new school.

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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Potential & Listed Historic Districts**

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Eight days after that publication on April 9, 1916, the Oregonian expressed the urgency of the town to have a new, and modern, school with this following entry, “the School Board has requested the plans prepared as hurriedly as possible.” The \$25,000 high school would physically stand two-stories tall, and encompass a basement. The schoolhouse took the summer and fall to build, and was completed in November of 1916. The Oregonian again documented this accomplishment in an article entitled, *North Powder School Building Done*. They ran a snippet detailing the school on November 3, 1916. It described, “North Powder’s white pressed-brick school building, costing \$25,000, has just been completed, and will be occupied at once. There are nine recitation rooms, office, library, auditorium seating 300, two manual training rooms, domestic science, domestic art and two waiting rooms. There is a large playroom in the basement, an individual heating plant and artesian water system.” Since 1916, the school continues to host students from the North Powder area.

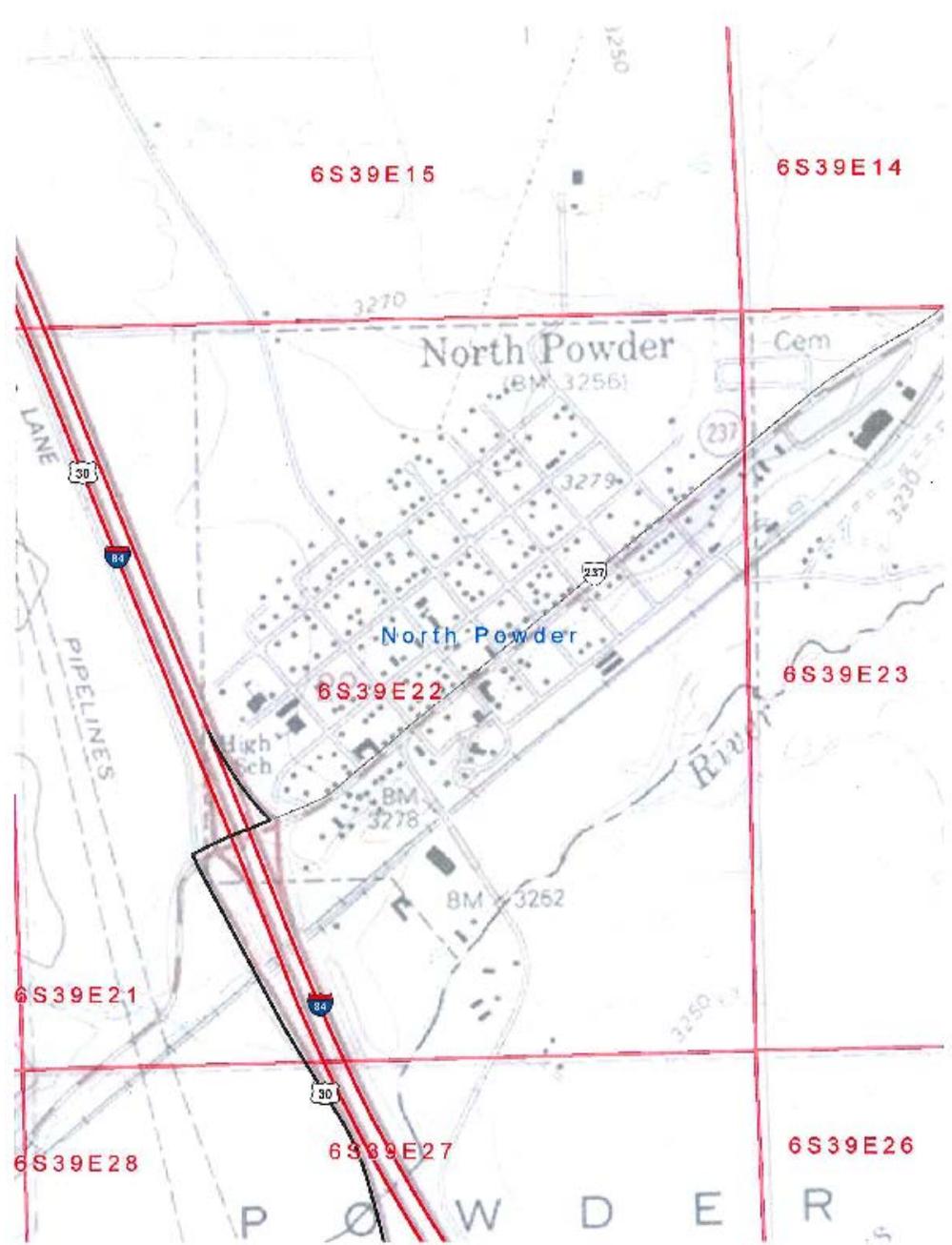
**SIGNIFICANCE**

As noted, the Powder Valley School is a product of the architectural firm, Tourtellotte and Hummel. While more famously known for the design of the Idaho State Capitol with Charles Frederick Hummel, John E. Tourtellotte’s “first major building he designed was the high school in Boise.” (Ritz, 391) Tourtellotte opened his architectural office in Boise in 1892 to have the German-born Hummel join his practice in 1896. By 1900, Tourtellotte renamed his firm from Tourtellotte & Company to Tourtellotte & Hummel, cementing Hummel as a partner. During their reign together, the firm “designed commercial and public buildings in many cities in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, as well as in Boise and Portland ...they also designed a large number of college and school buildings (their most frequent clientele), churches, and hotels throughout the Northwest.” (Ritz, 392) However, Idaho claims this firm. This “firm is the single most important in Idaho architecture; its forty-five-year commissions list encompasses many of the state’s major architectural and institutional monuments – preeminently, its capitol building – and a full representation of the appropriate periods of developmental style.” (Wright, N/P) It should be noted that Tourtellotte and Hummel conformed to the preferred stylistic preference of the time period. They evolved, employing new architectural designs as they deemed fit with the community and environment. In the National Register of Historic Places nomination completed on the structures designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel in Idaho, Patricia Wright, Architectural Historian for the Idaho State Historical Society, declared, “[t]here is an equally broad range of style. In general, the sites from the turn of the century to the early 1920s demonstrate a movement from the eclecticism of the late 1890s and the turn of the century to a protracted academic, often classicizing, phase.” The Powder Valley schools falls directly in this time period of the Tourtellotte and Hummel “classicizing phase.” It is a prime example of the successful evolution of style that Tourtellotte and Hummel are so recognized for. Wright delves further into their stylistic identity; again in the National Register Nomination, she remarks, “[the successive stylistic phases follow the sequence of styles generally in vogue during this forty-five-year period. They also reflect particular stylistic preferences of the architects who were the dominant design influence in the firm at various times: the eclecticism of John Tourtellotte; the classicism of Charles Hummel; Frederick Hummel’s fondness for the picturesque; and Frank Hummel’s taste for the ‘modernistic.’” If basing the lead architect on the classical design of the Powder Valley School, it would seem Charles Hummel would have had the reins. Also, taking into consideration that Germanic people initially compromised North Powder, Hummel again would have been the preferred choice as lead architect. However, this is theoretical.

It should be reiterated that the National Register nomination, as completed by Patricia Wright, only took into consideration structures in Idaho. However, that was a feat in of it itself. Wright eventually concluded that 139 sites were worthy of National Register (NR) status; this was after eliminating the firm’s commercial and institutional buildings that were in downtown NR designated districts. Detailing the variance in form, Wright also noted, “[t]here is among the 139 sites a very great range of material: brick, stone, and cast-stone masonry; frame; masonry veneer; reinforced poured concrete.” The materials display that Tourtellotte and Hummel, dependent upon style, chose the structure’s material to harmonize, i.e. white pressed brick for a classical influenced structure. Designating the work in Idaho as significant via the National Register cements the importance of this firm nationwide. However, their successful avant garde approach at stylizing architecture is worthy of documentation throughout the Pacific Northwest. Both the National Register nomination and the book latter written by Patricia Wright and Lisa B. Reitzes, titled *Tourtellotte & Hummel of Idaho: The Standard Practice of Architecture*, share a compiled list of, theoretically, all the structures designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel. However, the 1916 North Powder School, or Powder Valley School, is not listed. Insignificant in hindsight to their major public works, the city of North Powder considered (and still considers) this structure highly significant to their community. Immortalized in a plaque on the building, Tourtellotte and Hummel are remembered for designing a school that recalls the history and success of North Powder during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This school is a point of pride for residents of the North Powder area. It continues to host many of the community’s important events. Aside from the school dances, awards banquets, and prep assemblies, the school hosts volunteer breakfasts, regional culinary training, events for the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the Eastern Oregon Small Schools Music Association (EOSSMA), as well as the Missoula Children’s Theatre. The city revolves around the school, making sure the upcoming events are housed in their professionally designed and built school. North Powder continues to utilize the foreshadowed modern conveniences of 1916, a testament to the evolving progressive styles developed by Tourtellotte and Hummel.

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
SECTION 106: SUPPLEMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHS

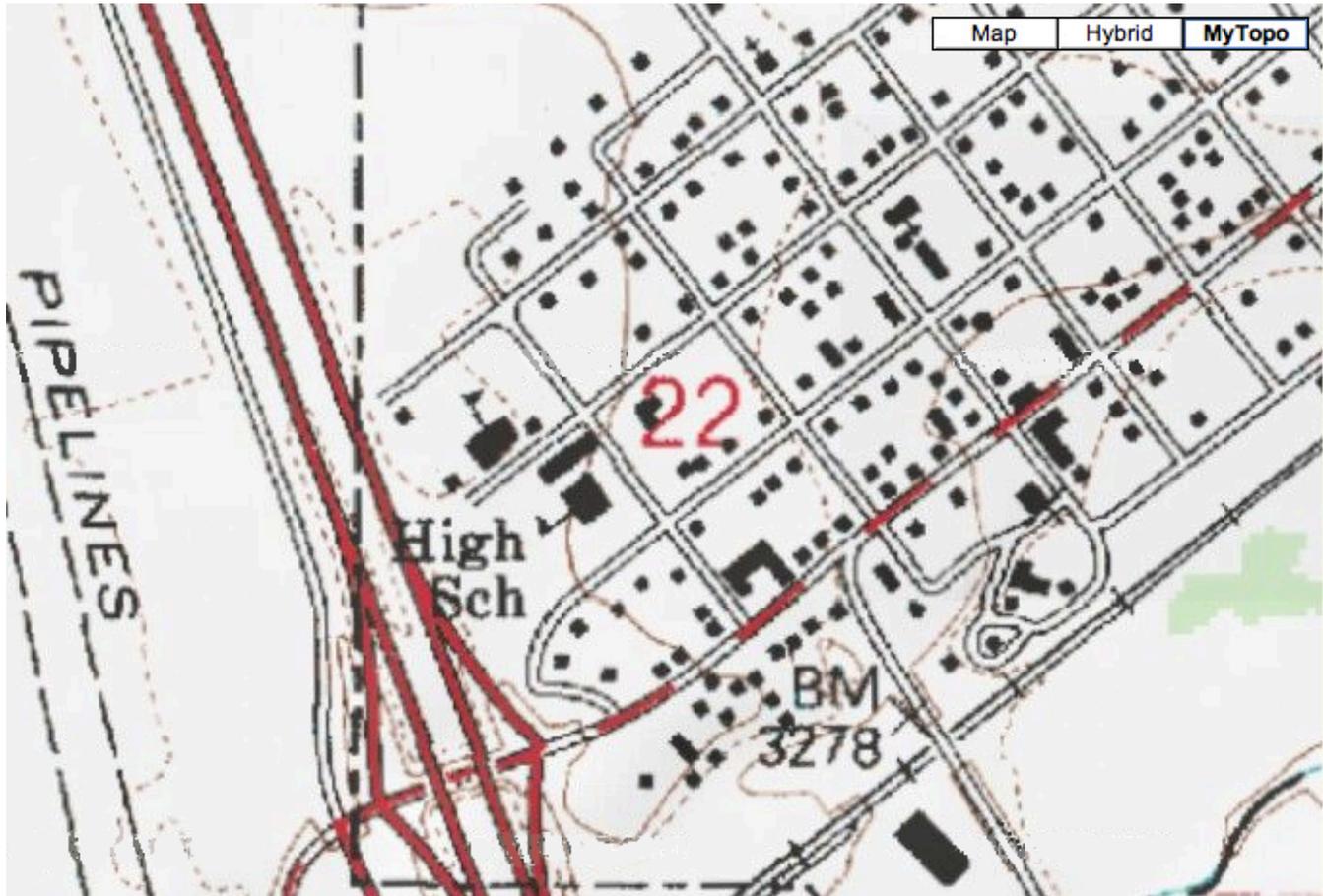
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View: Topographical/USGS Overview of North Powder.

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View: Topographical/USGS View of Powder Valley School. Note: The school building is the square with the flag on top, right of "High Sch" label.

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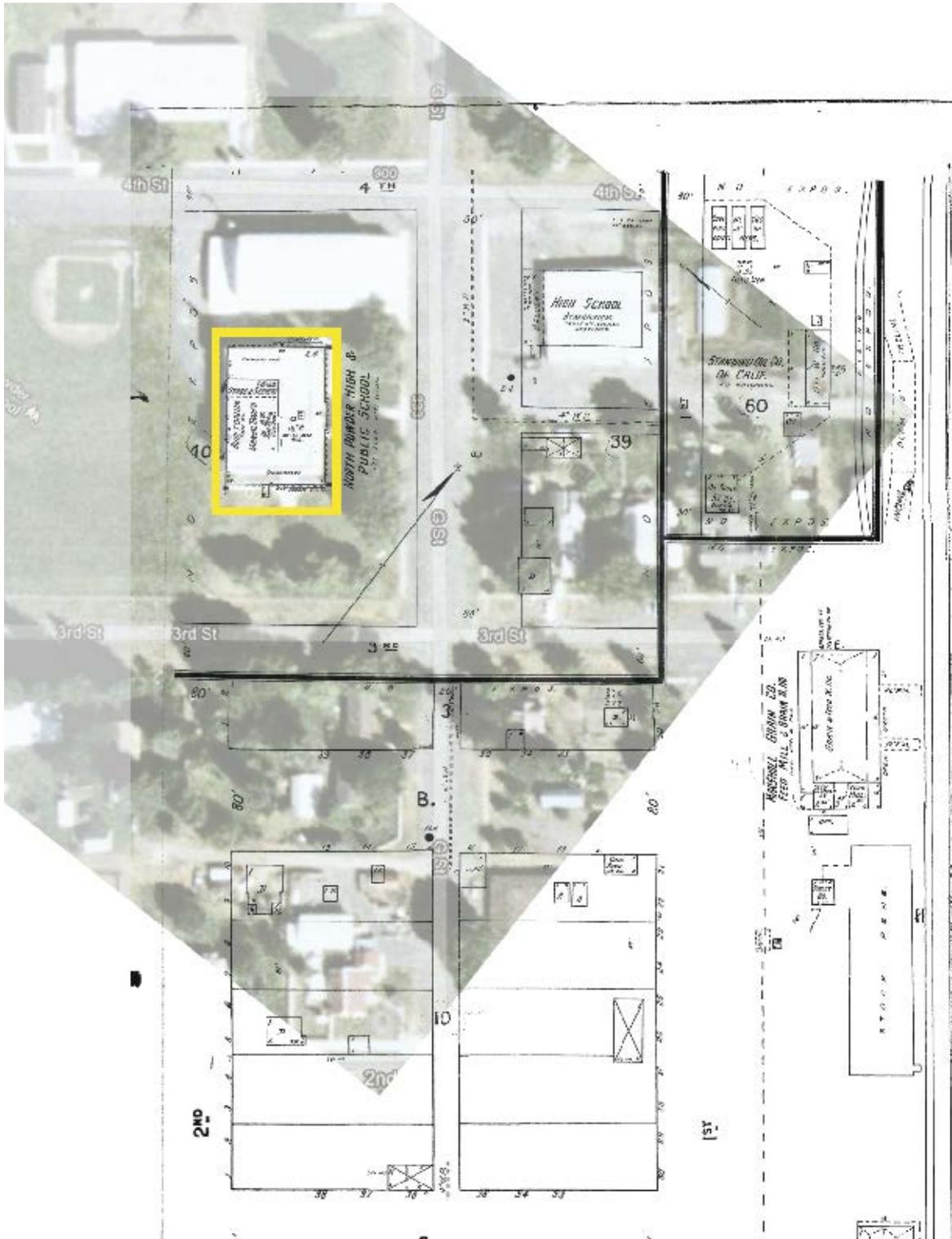
View: GIS Aerial View of the Powder Valley School. Note: Yellow lines signify the tax lot boundaries. Green lines display the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) or tax map boundaries.

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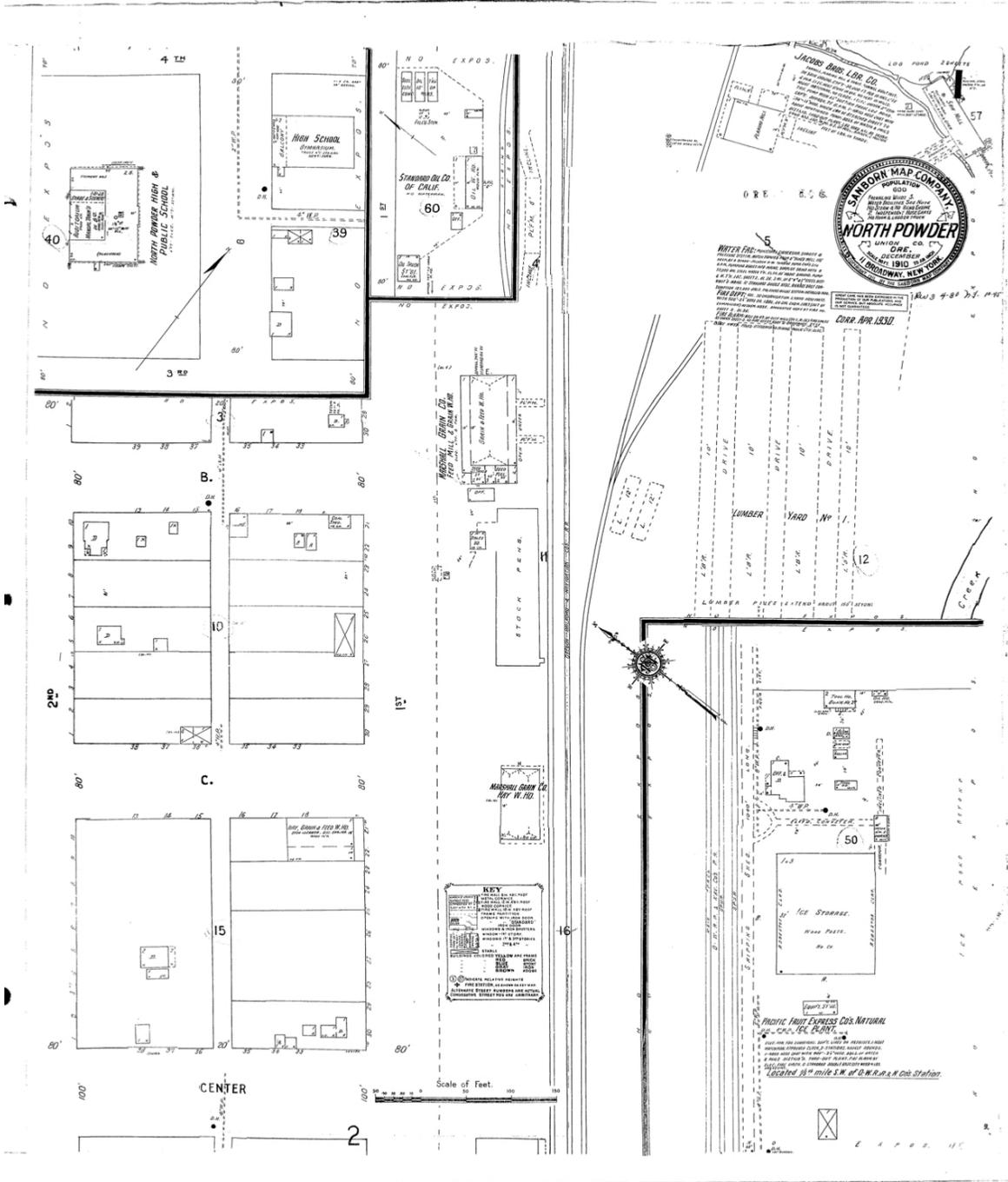
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View: View: 1910 – 1930 Sanborn map overlaid on present day Google maps aerial view, with yellow box signifying the Section 106 boundary. Note: The footprint of schoolhouse has not been modified.

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View: 1910 – 1930 Sanborn map with school in top left corner.

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 Denotes the Approximate Location of a Contributing Resource to the Potential North Powder Commercial Historic District  
 Denotes the Approximate Location of an Individually Eligible Resource



View: Map calling out the proposed North Powder Historic District in relation to the Powder Valley School. The numbers on the buildings represent the numbers used to identify the structures in the DOE form for the North Powder Commercial Historic District.

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View: Facing West onto the front/main entrance of school. Google Street View, April 2012.

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View: Facing North. Google Street View, 2012.

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View: Facing Northeast. Google Street View, 2012.

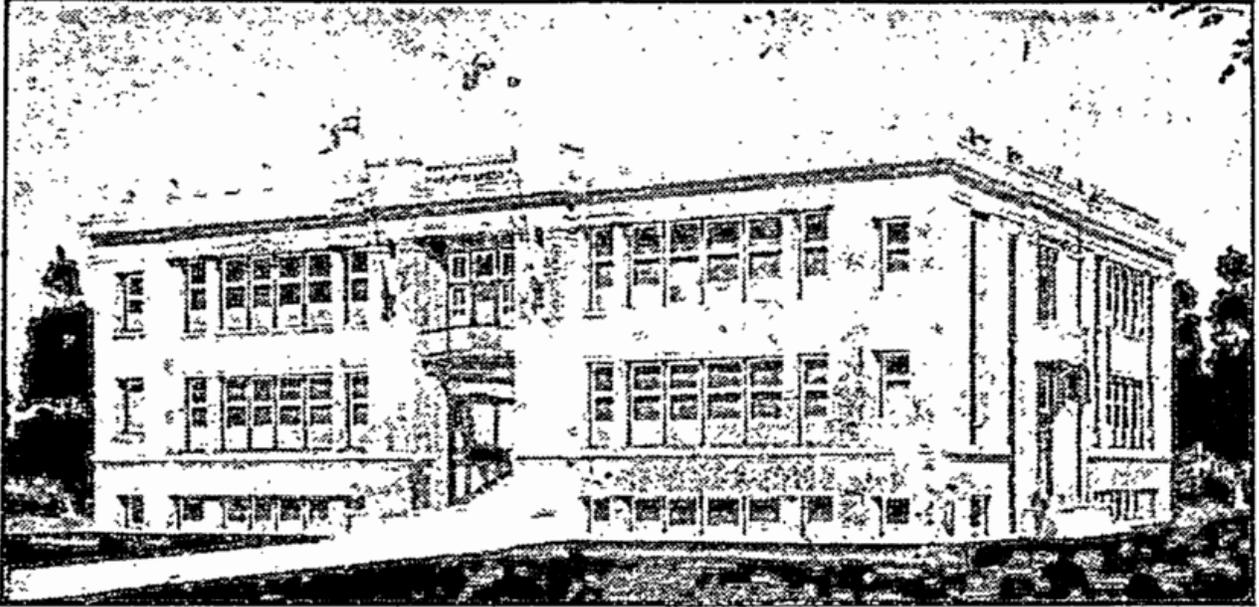
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BIDS ARE ASKED FOR \$25,000 BUILDING.



HIGH SCHOOL ABOUT TO BE ERECTED AT NORTH POWDER, OR.

Bids will be received this week by the Portland architectural firm of Tourtellotte & Hummel for the construction of the proposed two-story and basement \$25,000 high school building that is to be erected at North Powder, Or. The building is designed in the classical style of architecture and is to have an exterior of white pressed brick, trimmed with white cast stone, giving the structure the appearance of an enlarged piece of marble statuary. There are to be nine rooms, including an auditorium with stage and auxiliary rooms. One of the special features is to be an independent water plant, made possible by an artesian well on the premises.

View: Article from the Oregonian, April 23, 1916. Note: The two flags on the façade are resting in brick holsters. Those hostlers are still apparent on the current structure. They resemble corbelling.

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View: Plaque immortalizing Tourtellotte and Hummel as the architects of the school. C. Bell, 2013.

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View: Looking Northwest. C. Bell, 2013.

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View: Looking South at line of trees in front of eastern elevation of school. C. Bell, 2013. NOTE: Trees are considered ineligible for inclusion due to lack of knowledge about their history. Once/if more is uncovered, they potentially could be considered eligible for the National Register.

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**SOURCES**

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994.

Bailey, Barbara Ruth. *Main Street Northeastern Oregon: The Founding and Development of Small Towns*. Portland: The Oregon Historical Society, 1982.

Engeman, Richard H. *The Oregon Companion*. Portland: Timber Press, Inc., 2009.

Poppeliers, John C. and S. Allen Chambers Jr. *What Style Is It: A Guide to American Architecture*. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 2003.

Ritz, Richard Ellis. *Architects of Oregon: A Biographical Dictionary of Architects Deceased – 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries*. Portland: Lair Hill Publishing, 2002.

Wright, Patricia. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form: Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture Thematic Resources*. 1982.

Wright, Patricia, and Lisa B. Reitzes. *Tourtellotte & Hummel of Idaho: The Standard Practice of Architecture*. Utah: Utah State University Press, 1987.

"Bids Are Asked For \$25,000 Building." *The Oregonian*, April 23, 1916.

"Building Project Finally In Shape / Down-Town Block to Be Improved With Structure to Cost About \$32,000. / \$26,000 Hospital Planned / Portland Architects Get North Powder School Contract – St. Johns Mill Plans Rady. Astoria Job Landed." *The Oregonian*, April 9, 1916.

"North Powder School Building Done." *The Oregonian*, November 3, 1916.

"North Powder Votes for School." *The Oregonian*, March 27, 1916.

"School Bonds Are Sold / North Powder \$25,000 Issue Goes to Denver Firm." *The Oregonian*, April 1, 1916.