

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTY
ELLIS LAWRENCE BUILDING INVENTORY
COUNTY: Grant

HISTORIC NAME: PRAIRIE CITY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

COMMON NAME: Old Gym
OTHER NAMES:

RESOURCE TYPE: Building
STATUS: built & survives
LAWRENCE

CITY: Prairie City Oregon
STREET: Overholt Ave. at 10th Street
OWNER: School District #4
740 Overholt, Prairie City, Or. 97869

(JOB#) YEAR: (1955) 1930
(JOB#) YEAR: ()
(JOB#) YEAR: ()
FIRST DATE:
DESIGN BEG: Oct. 1930
DESIGN END: Oct. 1930
CONSTR BEG: Nov. 1930
CONSTR END: 1931

TOWNSHIP: 13S RANGE: 33E SECTION: 11
MAP#: 13-33-11BD TAX LOT: 13-33-11-00-1100
ADDITION: Prairie Land Company 1st Add ORIGINAL USE:
BLOCK: 043 LOT: QUAD: PRESENT USE:
ASSESSOR #:

LOSS DATE:
school/gymnasium
school/gymnasium
SITE: 2.0 acres, approx.

THEMES: 20C Architecture, Education

DATA BELOW IS ON LAWRENCE FIRM'S DESIGN AS-BUILT:

ARCHITECT: Lawrence, Holford, Allyn and Bean CHIEF DESIGNER: probably EFL
ENGINEERS & CONSULTANTS:

CONTRACTORS:

N.B. Leshar, Portland (General)

ARTISTS & CRAFTSMEN:

STYLE: Colonial (1910-1935)

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: rectangular (sides long) +rear wing

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: concrete

STORIES: 1

BASEMENT: no

ROOF/MATERIAL: truncated hip /Wood shingles

WALL CONSTR: nailed wood frame

STRUC.FRAME: heavy timber

PRIME WINDOW TYPE: wood group. multi-pane db-hung w/special half-ellip.

EXTERIOR SURFACE MATERIAL: wood shingles,

DECORATIVE FEATURES/MATERIALS:

decorative cut shingles below gym windows (now removed); entry porch with
paired wood pilasters and multi-pane fanlight.

OTHER:

The gym is an addition to the 1917 school building. Elementary classroom wing
by Josey & Jensen Architects added to the gym in 1952. Gym floor replaced 1938.

CONDITION: good

MOVED: not moved

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (dated):

gym windows covered or removed (1973); small flat-roof rear addition (c. 1963);
truncated hip roof was apparently built & later removed, exposing truss profile

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

blacktop area added on the south; outdoor basketball backstop was attached to
the gym in this area and has resulted in considerable shingle damage.

ELLIS LAWRENCE BUILDING INVENTORY

HISTORIC NAME: PRAIRIE CITY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES:

adjacent original school building (1917) with EF Lawrence alterations (1938).

SETTING:

School is in a residential area south of the downtown commercial core of Prairie City. Gym site is nearly flat and bounded by streets on two sides.

SIGNIFICANCE OF LAWRENCE FIRM'S DESIGN:

EXTER.DETAILS/CRAFTSMANSHIP: Better than average workmanship and materials.

INTER.DETAILS/CRAFTSMANSHIP: Ordinary construction with no special features.

EXTERIOR INTEGRITY: Moderate changes; some original character remains.

INTERIOR INTEGRITY: Moderate changes; some original character remains.

SITE INTEGRITY: Minor changes, but original character intact.

SETTING INTEGR: Minor changes to character and relationship of surroundings.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT:

No photos have been found to confirm that the truncated hip roof was built as drawn and later altered. Except for this, the loss of the windows in the gym and other more minor alterations, this building is intact and retains most of its original finishes. The use of colonial ornamental detail with a wood shingle exterior may be unique for public buildings in the region. Although the building was obviously designed to be economically built, its excellent proportions and detail give it a strong presence and dignity which makes it an important and visible landmark. This is one of only two gyms designed by Lawrence's firm in Eastern and Central Oregon (Baker High School is the other).

The gym/auditorium is important locally as the setting for athletic and social events of the town's high school and elementary school which were held here until the new gym was built. In addition to the major gym/auditorium space the building contains a simple stage and dressing rooms.

SOURCES/DOCUMENTS: Description (Location)

5 blueprints of construction drawings drawn by H.Abbott Lawrence, Allyn, "R", & "?", October 1930, rev. October 20, 1930 (at school).

Woods, Zelma, interview by M. Shellenbarger on 11 July 1988.

Bowler, Jim, interview by M. Shellenbarger on 11 July 1988.

PRAIRIE CITY SCHOOL YEARBOOKS, 1951 to 1975

Master Index to Lawrence drawings, EF Lawrence Col., UO Library Special Col.

DAILY JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, Portland, 10/20/30 p1, 10/31/30 p1, 12/27/30 p6.

PUBLICATIONS:

SLIDE NO.:

SHPO INVENTORY NO.:

65

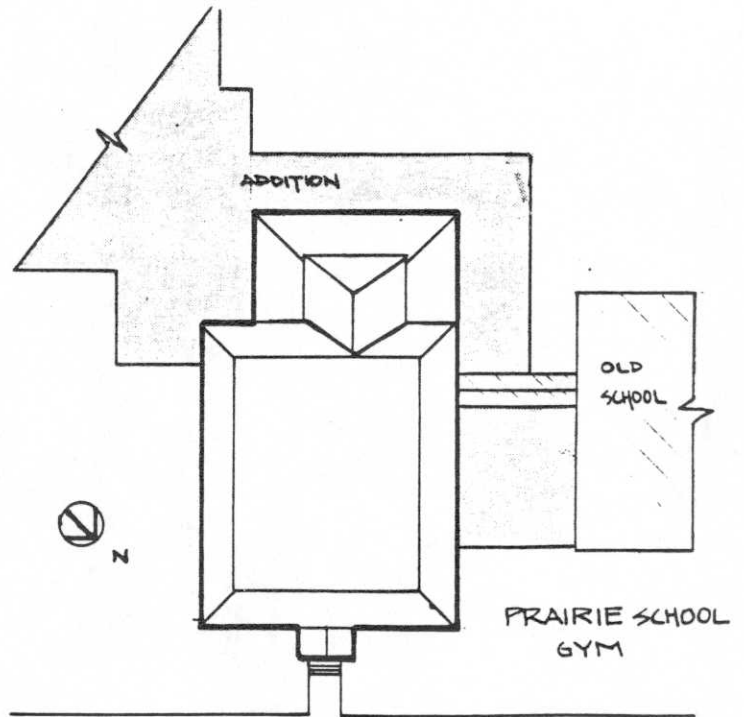
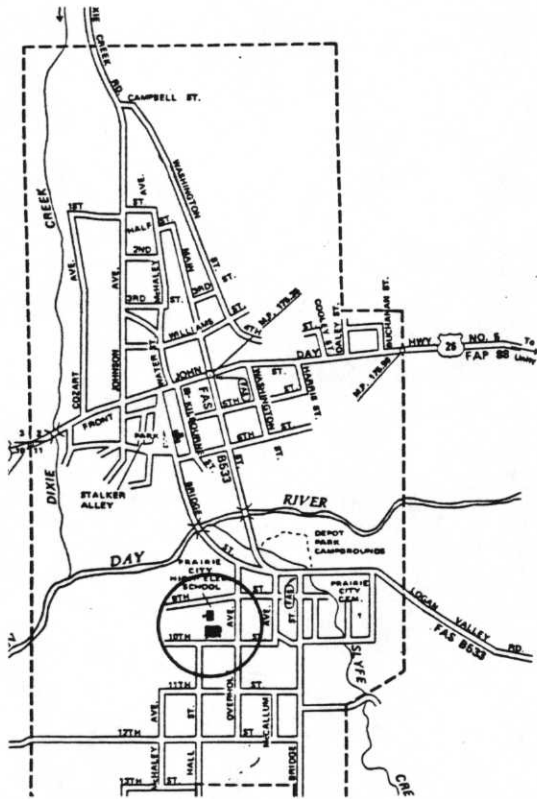
RESEARCH BY: RS/Shellenbarger **DATE:** 07/17/88

RECORDED BY: M. Shellenbarger **DATE:** 07/17/88

ELLIS LAWRENCE BUILDING SURVEY
 HISTORIC NAME: PRAIRIE CITY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

RECENT PHOTO
 NEGATIVE #s:
 MS1-24A

First # above
 is upper-right
 photo; second #
 is just below.
 If no # above,
 see sources at
 bottom of page.



HISTORIC PHOTO/OTHER GRAPHIC SOURCE:

