

WASHINGTON COUNTY CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

RESOURCE NO.: 241/82

PRESENT OWNER: Banks School District #13

T 2N R 3W Sec. 31 1/4

ORIGINAL OWNER: Banks Union High School Dist. #1

TAX LOT #: 801

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: _____

CONDITION: Good

LOCATION: Main Street, Banks

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1919-20

COMMON/HISTORIC NAME: Banks Junior High/High School

USE: PRESENT Jr. High School

THEME: Education:
Formal Schooling

ORIGINAL High School

TYPE: Building

Description of the resource and statement of historical significance:
(Continue on back if necessary)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Banks Junior High School is a two story building, rectangular in plan with attachments. It has a flat roof with a parapet wall on all elevations. Below the parapet is a simple wooden entablature which is broken on two fronts of the west facade. The building is sided with common bond brick. The prominent central entry on the west facade is accentuated by two wooden pilasters of the Tuscan order which support an entablature. The doors have five fixed lights and a transom. Above the entry a lunette window of twenty lights is trimmed by a soldier course of brick. Casement windows of 10/8 lights are grouped in bays of three on the west facade. Twenty double hung sash windows of 6/6 are on the north elevation. The school has a concrete foundation and a two foot watertable. Concrete steps lead to the main entry. An addition was made to the rear (east facade of the building) in the 1970's.

CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Banks Junior High is situated east of Highway 47 in the town of Banks. To the north is a mixed use area. The commercial core of Banks stretches one half mile north on either side of Highway 47. The school is landscaped with a tended lawn, foundation shrubs, and a large evergreen tree.

(continued)

Sources consulted:

- . Washington County Museum Vertical Files: Banks.
- . News Times, Forest Grove, Oregon, October 3, 1974.

Recorded by: Demuth/McLaughlin Date: February, 1983

PRESENT OWNER'S ADDRESS

(If different from above): _____

343

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The present Banks Junior High was formerly known as Banks Union High School. The building was constructed as a high school in 1919-1920. The first graduation was held in the Spring of 1920. While the school was under construction, classes were held in the American Legion Hall.

The school building cost \$38,000 to construct. Professor J.F. Santee and Miss Alice Stein were the first instructors. This building served as a high school until 1959, when a new school was constructed. The former high school building was then used as a Junior High School. It is still in use as a Junior High School today.

During the 1970's a group of Banks citizens, concerned about the state of disrepair of the building, organized a building improvements committee. They requested money be set aside in the school budget for interior repair and remodeling. The budget increase was approved, and the building was repainted, carpeted, re-wired, and a new heating system was installed.

Banks Junior High School is a significant building architecturally as one of the few brick buildings in the area. It has unusual wooden architectural detail exhibited in the wood frieze, pilasters and lunette window above the entry. The building has maintained its original use as a school since 1920. It is an important historical feature in the City of Banks as the first high school.

