

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Auburn Grammar School

other names/site number Auburn Civic Center

**DRAFT**

## 2. Location

street & number 1225 Lincoln Way

not for publication

city or town Auburn

vicinity

state CA code CA county Placer code 061 zip code 95603

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ **national**    \_\_\_ **statewide**    \_\_\_ **local**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**Name of Property**  
Auburn Grammar School

**County and State**  
Placer, California

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>	
1	1	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	1	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn,  
California

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education-School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Government-City Hall/Civic Center  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Beaux Arts  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation: Concrete  
\_\_\_\_\_  
walls: Concrete  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terra Cotta Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: \_\_\_\_\_  
other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Name of Property**

Auburn Grammar School

**County and State**Placer, California

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

This large two-story rectangular building facing north on Lincoln Way has elements of both Classical Revival and Beaux Arts stiles. Built of terra cotta brick, the main building entrance is framed with Ionic columns. A full basement, parapet with entablature and three sash windows dominate the remainder of the building.

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**Narrative Description**

The old Auburn Grammar School, located on Lincoln Way at Highway 49 intersection in Auburn is situated on the front of the lot facing north on Lincoln Way. The Beaux Arts building is two stories with a full basement. The building is constructed with terra cotta bricks from Gladding McBean Company located in Lincoln, California. The foundation is constructed of concrete and forms the wall of the basement level of the building. The sloping lot allows access by one door on the west elevation and two doors on the south elevation to the basement level. The northeast corner of the basement has no windows or outside access. The symmetrical floor plan is an "I" with the middle section parallel with Lincoln Way. The main building entrance is flanked by three Corinthian pilasters on either side of the doorway that support

a denticulated entablature that is ornamented with a crowned cartouche with a terra cotta statue of a boy on one side and a girl on the other. Festoons and cornucopias of terra cotta complete the ornamentation on the entablature.

Eight concrete steps flanked by concrete rails topped with granite slabs lead up to the wood framed double door. Above the entablature are three sets of three wood framed windows. On both sides of these and of the doorway below is a set of windows three high that is narrower than the other windows. Five sets of three windows are on both sides of the center doorway and windows both stories. The bottom two windows of all of the sets open awning style. Both the west and east end of the building that extends toward the street have no windows. They are ornamented with a rose and white colored stone strip inlays that run nearly the length and the width of the extended portion of the building. The terra cotta bricks on the corners of the extended ends of the building are set in projected quoin corners consisting of four rows of running bond bricks on recessed headers. A wood wide band cornice tops the building and is embellished by block modillions and a terra cotta cartouche flanked with cornucopias in the center. All of the decorative features are terra cotta clay from Gladding McBean in Lincoln. The roof is flat.

Located on the same lot to the east is the old Lincoln Way School kindergarten and first grade building that now serves as the police department headquarters. Behind the building is a parking lot that was once the paved playground for the school. A concrete stairway leads down to a lower playground on the west side of the playground. Another concrete stairway constructed by the WPA in 1939 leads down to the Cooper Amphitheatre and the new city park.

**Name of Property**  
Auburn Grammar School

**County and State**  
Placer, California

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Politics/Government \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1915-1960 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1915 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Weeks, William H.-architect \_\_\_\_\_

Hayes, George S.- contractor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance (justification)**

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

<b>Name of Property</b>	<b>County and State</b>
Auburn Grammar School	Placer, California

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Auburn Grammar School building, built in 1915, is an excellent example of the Beaux Arts style popular from 1885 to 1920. The building meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as one of the best examples of the Beaux Arts style in the city of Auburn, designed by San Francisco master architect William Henry Weeks. The building is also eligible under Criterion A as a public building (an elementary school) significant to the history of the city of Auburn.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion A: Significance as an Elementary School**

Auburn Grammar School, constructed in 1915, is significant in local and state history as it was a showcase of modern education. It represented the most contemporary advances in design and efficiency. It was also the culmination of a rich and varied history of elementary education in the region. The Auburn Grammar School is nominated under the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPS as a Civic Building.

The first school in the Auburn area began with a private school by Mrs. Horton in 1851 or 1852. In 1852 a public school was opened in the Masonic Hall that was located on the current courthouse grounds. In 1866-67 enrollment was 127 students. In 1868 a new one room school was constructed on property purchased from Ina Grant. The school was expanded to four rooms and served until 1874 when a new building was constructed. By 1882 the school board approved a new large two-story, wooden Italianate building that remained in use until 1915 when the new Beaux Arts school building was completed. Concern with fire safety and overcrowding caused the board to seek bond funding for a large, first class edifice.

**Criterion C: Significance as Beaux Arts School Architecture, Product of Master Architect W.H. Weeks**

These efforts were realized in 1915 with the opening of the W.H. Weeks designed facility. The building of masonry and locally manufactured terra cotta brick used the latest techniques of reinforcement for earthquake safety based on experience gained a decade earlier in the San Francisco earthquake and fire. The building was reinforced with steel beams and was complete with a large auditorium, dining facilities, oil heat, air ventilators, and electric wiring in conduit. The building costs exceeded the bond of \$45,000 and so the school district spent an additional \$2,000. The remaining deficit was overcome by monies raised by citizen subscriptions for seats in the auditorium. The building was constructed by George S. Hayes, an Sacramento contractor.

William H. Weeks is recognized as one of California’s most significant institutional architects. Weeks is best known for his innovative designs of school buildings that consistently encompassed high engineering standards and safety features. This coupled with attractive exteriors and functional interiors has earned him an important niche in architectural history.

Born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on January 18, 1864, he was the son of a builder and designer. After a primary education in private boarding school, he moved with his parents to Wichita, Kansas and worked with his father in the construction business. They later moved back to the West Coast. After marrying, Weeks moved to Watsonville, California and opened his architectural offices. He began by designing churches and residences but in 1894 drew up the plans for the Watsonville High School.

Business boomed and in 1897, he opened a branch office in Salinas. When Claus Spreckels established the Spreckels Sugar Factory near Salinas, Weeks was hired to design many of the buildings of the complex including a school building. By 1898, his business included buildings in the entire area with some jobs from the Bay area and the Central Valley. Weeks received practical training in San Francisco shortly after 1906 when he built several new structures to replace fire and quake ravaged structures.

By 1907, W. H. Weeks was traveling to Nevada City to design the Nevada City Library. He was also designed several other libraries and schools at the same time. It was also during this time that he designed the famous Casino on the boardwalk at Santa Cruz. Weeks moved his offices to a more central location in 1911 when he relocated to Palo Alto.

Name of Property	County and State
Auburn Grammar School	Placer, California

In 1912, Weeks again moved his offices; this time to the top floor of a large building on Kearney Street, San Francisco. In 1912, he again moved to Post Street, San Francisco. Although he worked on other projects, during the second decade of the new century, Weeks devoted most of his attention to California and Nevada public schools.

By 1928, Weeks' organization was one of the largest and oldest architectural firms in the state. In April, 1936, William H. Weeks died. The San Jose Mercury Herald of April 30, 1936 eulogized him, "Weeks was a genuinely great architect and all over California there are monuments to his skill. For that matter, all over California there are thousands of youngsters whose lives are a little more happy and a little more healthy because of what W. H. Weeks know about school architecture. Mr. Weeks was a specialist in school design and knew what exposures provide students with the best light, what type of hallway permits quickest passage from one class to another, what type of exterior brings with it the greatest beauty ... Schools, however, were his chief love and he used to say that no man in California had designed as many. His pride in his schools was justified."

The recent biography of Weeks, Betty Lewis's *W. H. Weeks, Architect*, identified over 213 schools, individual school buildings or additions in his long and illustrious career.

When the building was deemed to be unsafe for student occupancy under the Field Act, classrooms were moved out and complex became the Auburn Union Elementary School district offices. The building was restored and converted into offices for the city of Auburn in 1990. The building is a State Point of Historical Interest. The Auburn Grammar School retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"A Self Guided Walking Tour the Historic Auburn Buildings." City of Auburn, 1988.

Gilberg, M.E., Auburn, A California Mining Camp Comes of Age. Gilmar Press: Newcastle, California, 1986.

Harris, Cyril M., Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture. Dover Publications, New York, 1983.

Napoli, Donald S, "Auburn Historic Resources Survey." City of Auburn, June, 12, 1987.

*Placer Herald* newspaper. Auburn, California.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** \_\_\_\_\_

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

6.7 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>667080</u> Easting	<u>4306980</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing	4	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Parcel number 002-201-13.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the original city lot for the school where the building, parking lot and school grounds (now a city park) are located.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Carmel Barry-Schweyer  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 12.4.09  
street & number 12190 Holly Vista Way telephone 530-885-7476  
city or town Auburn state CA zip code 95603  
e-mail carmphil@sbcglobal.net

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Name of Property	County and State
Auburn Grammar School	Placer, California

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Auburn Grammar School

**City or Vicinity:** Auburn

**County:** Placer

**State:** CA

**Photographer:** Carmel Barry-Schweyer

**Date Photographed:** 12.09.09

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- 1 of 4. CA, Placer County, Auburn Grammar School, north elevation, camera facing south.
- 2 of 4. CA, Placer County, Auburn Grammar School,.
- 3 of 4. CA, Placer County, Auburn Grammar School,.
- 4 of 4. CA, Placer County, Auburn Grammar School,.

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Auburn

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street & number 1255 Lincoln Way telephone 530-885-4211

city or town Auburn state CA zip code 95603

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation

Auburn Grammar School
Name of Property
Placer, California
County and State
Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn, California
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page 1

**PHOTO LOG**

(Pending)

**FIGURE LOG**

Figure 1: Auburn Grammar School circa 1920

Figure 2: Auburn Grammar School circa 1925

Figure 3: Auburn Grammar School circa 1935

Figure 4: Vicinity Map



Figure 1: Auburn Grammar School circa 1920

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Auburn Grammar School
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Section number Additional Documentation

Page 2

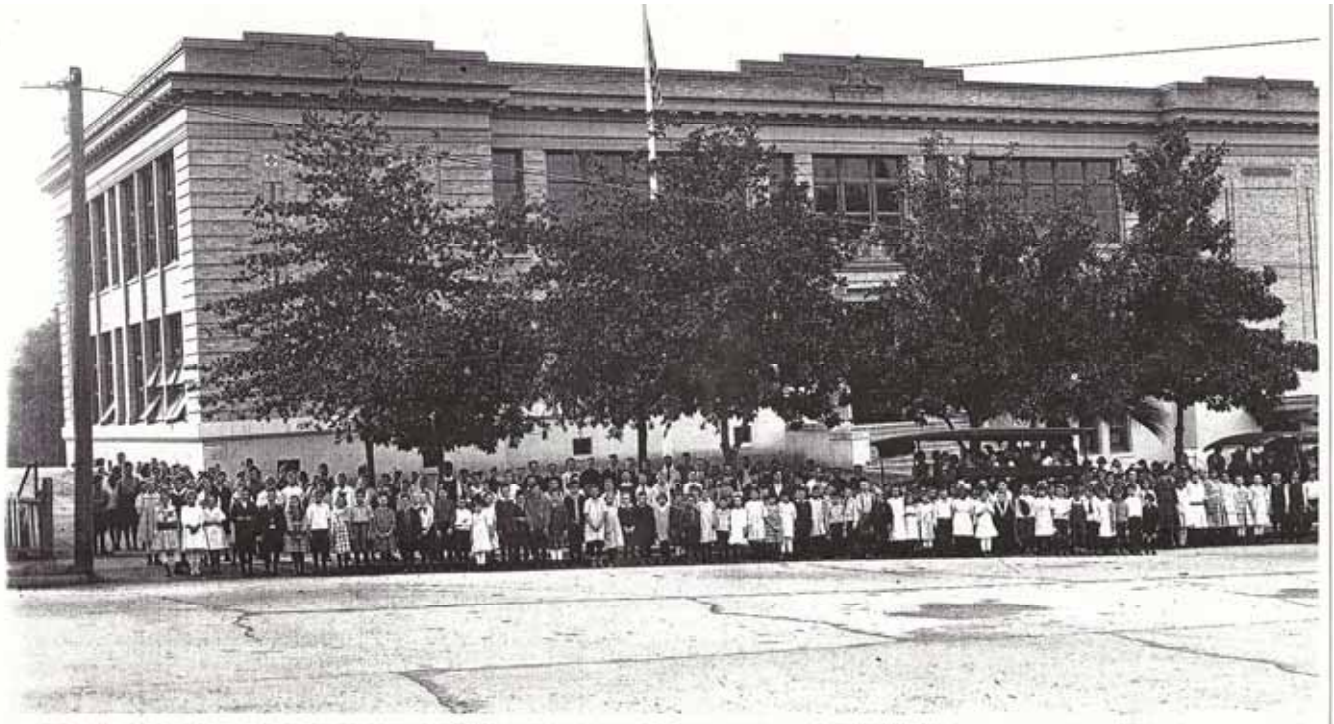


Figure 2: Auburn Grammar School circa 1925

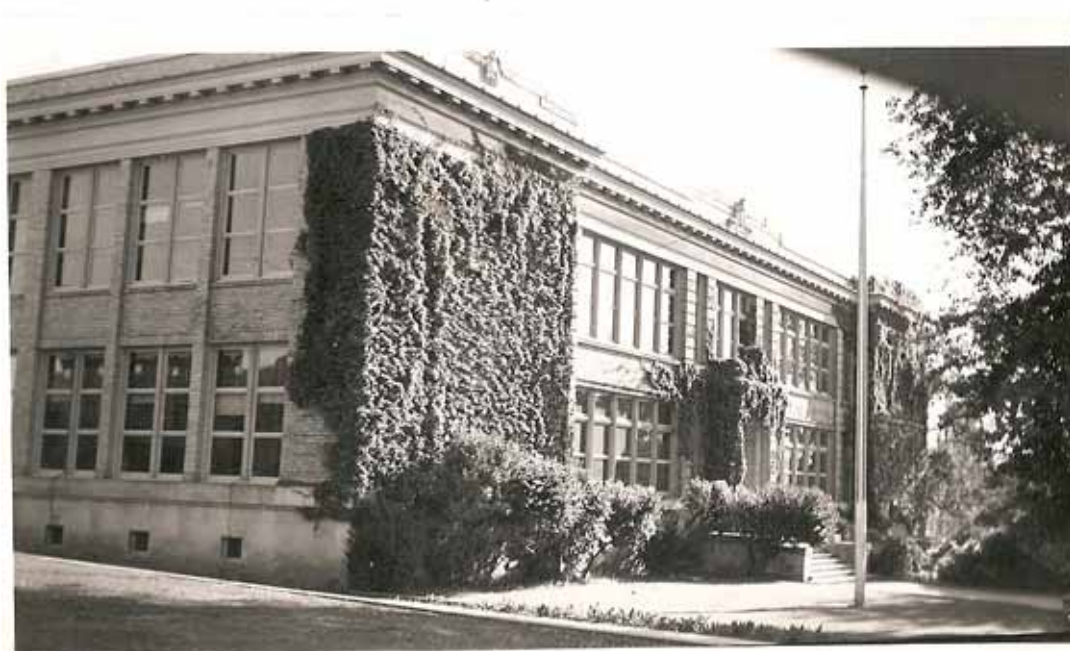


Figure 3: Auburn Grammar School circa 1935

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation

Auburn Grammar School
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