

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

# 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Holy Name Catholic School

Other names/site number: 48SH1840

Name of related multiple property listing:

Educational Facilities in Wyoming, 1850-1960

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 121 South Connor Street

City or town: Sheridan State: WY County: Sheridan

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this x 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 x 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   x   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  x   A     B   x   C     D

<p>_____</p> <p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	<p>_____</p> <p><b>Date</b></p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Title :</b></p>	<p>_____</p> <p><b>Date</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>

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#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

Education

**Current Functions**

Education

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Modern Movement: International Style

### Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick

## Narrative Description

### Summary Paragraph

The Holy Name Elementary School consists of a two-story, brick school building built in 1914, which exhibits stylistic elements of the Bungalow/Craftsman and Classical Revival styles, and an ancillary International-style building containing classrooms, library, gymnasium and cafeteria built in 1952. The two buildings occupy the west half of the block bordered by South Connor Street, East Burkitt Street, South Custer Street and East Works Street, in a residential neighborhood two blocks east of downtown Sheridan, Wyoming. The two buildings are separated by an asphalt-paved parking and play area which extends to the east (rear) of the 1914 building. A grassy play area occupies the northeast quadrant of the block and a grass lawn and small, fenced play area extend to the north of the 1914 building. The rest of the block is occupied by houses and utility buildings.

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## Narrative Description

### 1914 School Building

The 1914 school building is roughly rectangular in plan (75' EW by 60' NS), and comprised of three main sections: a rear section housing classrooms, a front section housing the hallways and staircases which is inset about 8' on each side, and a full-width entry addition. The building rests on a full, raised, poured-concrete basement. About 12" of the concrete is exposed and the rest is covered in common-bond red brick to match the rest of the building. The lower portion of the building is defined by a sandstone sill course which runs around 3 sides of the building at the level of the first-floor windows. Below this sill course the header rows of bricks are recessed, giving the appearance of a rusticated base as used in Classical Revival buildings. The Classical theme is enhanced by quoin motifs picked out in darker red brick at all corners. The building is topped by a hip-on-clipped gable roof, with the axis of the gable running north-south and the hip extending to the west (front) of the building. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and has exposed rafter tails and knee braces in the gable ends, adding a Craftsman appearance to the building. The school is well lit by large, original, 1-over-1, double-hung wood windows in singles and sets of three. Windows are topped by decorative trim of multi-colored contrasting brick and most have metal storm/screen sash added on the exterior.

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The three-bay, symmetrical façade faces west. A one-story, common-bond brick entryway (approximately 16' deep and extending the width of the façade) was added onto the façade in 1983, obscuring the original design of the first story. Like the rest of the building, the entryway addition has quoin motifs picked out in contrasting brick at the corners. Seven concrete steps lead to a central, single-leaf metal and glass door with narrow sidelights and no trim. The entryway is topped by a medium-pitched hipped roof which originates about halfway up the second story of the facade, with a well cut out to reveal the second-story window that would otherwise be partially obscured by the roof. The central one-third of the roof extends at the eave to cover the exterior steps. The second story is elaborated by a paired, double-hung window with a segmental-arched fanlight divided into eight vertical lights. The window is topped with a decorative segmental arch of colored brick, made up of a row of soldier bricks with a concrete keystone and an outer row of rowlock bricks. A parapet extends above the roof, with corner piers and a central gable topped with concrete caps. A concrete cross extends from the peak of the gable. A decorative brick frieze of soldier and rowlock brick runs the width of the parapet.

The north and south bay of the facade each has a pair of small, rectangular windows with three vertical lights, set in a decorative brick surround.

The south elevation has a single sliding window in the entryway section. The central (stairway) section is lit by a single double-hung window in each of the two stories. The first-story window has a segmental arch cap made of two rows of dark rowlock brick, while the second-story window has no trim. Both windows have concrete sills. A low, shed-roofed brick addition sheltering a basement egress staircase was added in 1983, in the inset portion of the south elevation. The addition has a west-facing metal and glass single door.

The classroom (east) section of the south elevation has four, 2-light casement windows with metal grills in the basement and six 1-over-1, double-hung windows in each of the first and second stories. These windows are set in groups of three divided by a brick pier, and each set of six windows is topped by a decorative header about 1' in height consisting of rows of stretcher, soldier and header multi-colored brick with concrete squares at the corners. The first-floor windows have a sandstone sill course while the second-story windows have concrete sills running the length of each set of three windows. Four decorative wood knee braces support the open eave of the clipped gable roof.

The east (rear) elevation is solid brick except for four metal and glass emergency exit doors that have been added to each of the classrooms, two per floor, located at the center of the elevation.<sup>1</sup> Metal fire escapes extend from the doors, with the first floor fire escape extending to the south and the second floor fire escape extending to the north. A large, rectangular brick chimney with dark brick trim near the cap extends from the east slope of the roof. The rusticated base and quoin motifs are continued on this elevation, and the sandstone sill course wraps around the corners for approximately 10' on each side, but is not continuous.

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<sup>1</sup> Although not specifically mentioned in the school history (Ketchum), it is assumed these were added in 1983 since they match the front and side emergency exit doors added at this time.

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The north elevation is almost identical to the south elevation, except that the low, shed-roofed brick addition sheltering a basement egress staircase extends at the east end of the elevation, blocking two of the basement casement windows. The addition has an east-facing metal and glass single door. A casement window is located at the basement level in the stairway section of this elevation.

#### Statement of exterior integrity

The Holy Name Catholic School retains excellent overall integrity, especially considering that it has been in continuous use as a school for almost 100 years. Most school buildings in Wyoming have been subject to additions and remodeling every 20 – 30 years, many of which have covered over the original historic core. Almost all of the original Holy Name School building is not only visible, but also retains original materials. The building has undergone a few minor changes due to changing safety standards for egress, as well as the addition of a new entryway.

The building retains excellent integrity of location, since it has not been moved from its original location. Its integrity of setting in a residential neighborhood is also excellent, although slightly diminished by the asphalt paving that surrounds the building on two sides. A study of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps dated 1912, 1920, 1927 and 1948 shows that the block the school sits on was originally occupied by small houses. The houses directly east of the 1914 school building have gradually been replaced with paved and grass play areas. However, houses remain in the southeast quadrant of the block along East Burkitt Street (to the rear of the 1952 addition).

Integrity of exterior design has been compromised on the façade by the front entryway addition, but is good to excellent on all other elevations where the only design changes have been the addition of two metal fire escapes and doors on the east elevation, and basement egress stairs on the north and south elevations. These changes are unobtrusive and do not detract from the overall integrity of design. The building retains excellent integrity of materials and workmanship, with original windows, doors, trim and brickwork. The asphalt shingle roof covering is not original. It is not known what the original covering was, although a colored postcard shows a grayish colored roof, probably wood shingled. Finally the building retains the feeling and association of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century school building; its design and materials directly link it to early Progressive-era school building design in Wyoming.

#### Interior

The interior of the original Holy Name School building is virtually intact, with original layout, woodwork, doors and windows. The entryway addition contains an entrance hall flanked by restrooms, and leads to the original interior entryway, a 7'-wide opening trimmed in painted wood. Stairs on either side descend to the basement, while a five-step staircase directly in front of the entryway ascends to a hallway and the entrance to the classrooms. The double staircase ascends on the north and south sides to a second floor landing. The staircase is wood (now covered with carpet) with 1-by-2 wood railings and 4-by-4 corner posts with caps, all built of standard dimension lumber. The lower half of the wall along the staircase and in the hallways is covered in oak paneling, while the upper portion is painted plaster. The ceiling in the hallways

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and part of the staircase has been covered in acoustical tile; however the exposed ceilings under the stairs are covered with original beadboard.

The two main floors are virtually identical, with the classroom section of the building divided into two classrooms per floor. Each classroom is approximately 42' by 28', with 12'-high ceilings. A picture rail surrounds the room approximately 15" from the ceiling. The banks of large windows on the north and south walls provide generous natural lighting. Windows retain their original wood molding, sills and wide reveals. Along the wall below the windows is a row of four original iron radiators. Front and rear walls of the classrooms are covered with original blackboards (painted wood, not slate) or newer white boards. Most doors are original wood, consisting of three horizontal panels above two vertical panels. Wood door trim matches that of the windows. Each classroom has a door from the hallway, a door connecting to the adjacent room and a door to a cloakroom/storage room which extends to the west. The only change to the classrooms is the addition of a metal and glass door on the rear wall, which leads to a fire escape.

The basement contains two classrooms, an office, a furnace/utility room, restrooms and storage. Two exterior staircases on the north and south walls respectively have been added for safety purposes.

Overall, the interior integrity of the 1914 building is excellent, with original floor plan, materials, fixtures and workmanship.

### 1952 Annex

The 1952 annex, a two-story, rectangular (109' NS by 138' EW), flat-roofed, International-style building, lies just to the south of the 1914 school, separated by an asphalt-paved driveway and play area. The building rests on a low, poured concrete foundation, and the exterior walls are striated red and tan brick, laid in common bond with a row of soldier brick at the cornice line. A granite cornerstone in the southwest corner reads "AD MCML."

The west-facing, six-bay façade is asymmetrical, with a central, 3-bay entryway that protrudes about 15" from the wall surface, flanked by one bay on the south and two bays on the north. A wide, concrete stoop with three steps and a metal railing leads to the entrance, which is framed by a concrete enframingent that extends about 2' at the sides and top, with the concrete scored to look like rusticated stonework. The concrete is currently painted white, although historic photos reveal that it was originally unpainted. An anodized aluminum fascia has been added to the top portion of the enframingent. The entrance consists of five metal-and-glass doors topped by square transoms. Flanking the doors, and separated by concrete, are stationary wood windows topped by square transoms.

Aside from the aforementioned wood windows, the typical window on the façade is a large, rectangular opening framed in header and rowlock brick which protrudes slightly from the wall surface. The metal-framed window sash is inset slightly and consists of six or nine large lights. On the 9-light windows, the bottom center sash is an operable awning window. All windows have reflective or tinted glass. In the central three bays there are 6-light windows on either side

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of the entryway, and three 9-light windows in the second story. A plain aluminum cross is found between the central and northern windows on the second story.

Flanking the central section are narrow bays with varying patterns of small windows. The bay to the south has small, square, 2-light windows, one on each story, with rowlock-brick sills, connected by a long spandrel of soldier brick, with a soldier-brick spandrel extending from the top window to the cornice. The lower window has been in-filled with a solid panel and an air conditioning unit. The bay to the north has a similar spandrel, but it begins below the single, 4-light, narrow, rectangular window and extends above it to the cornice. A row of rowlock brick marks the bottom edge of the spandrel as well as the sill of the window. Continuing north is an additional bay not matched on the south side. This bay consists of a 9-light window on the first story with the name "Holy Name School" in aluminum letters above it.

The south elevation is symmetrical. A large portion of the first story is picked out in concrete which extends slightly from the wall surface and is painted white. The concrete extends from the foundation to about 2' below the second story windows. Within this section are two entrances, one at each end, each with a metal and glass door with a full-length sidelight, a wide, concrete 2-step stoop and a narrow concrete-slab awning over the doorway from which hang two small metal lights. Between the two doors is a horizontal ribbon of windows which have been in-filled with fiberglass panels. On the second story is a long, ribbon window consisting of 6-light sash (3 rows of 2 lights), with every other one being 4-over-2 double-hung. Narrow metal muntins divide the ribbon into five sections of five sash each. Above the ribbon window extends a corrugated metal frieze. This section of wall is higher than the rest of the wall on this elevation. At either end of this elevation is a small window with 4 lights arranged vertically, trimmed in rowlock and header brick. At the southwest corner of the building, a ramp extends from the sidewalk on Connor Street to the doorway at the west end of the south elevation.

The rear (east) elevation is irregular and divided by a tall, square, exterior brick chimney with two concrete bands at the top. The north bay of this elevation has a metal and glass door with a sidelight between the first and second stories; a metal fire escape leads from the door to the ground. Above the door is an original 6-light metal window. What appears to have been a door opening just south of the chimney has been in-filled with a window with two vertical lights, with paneling below. The south bay has two metal-framed windows with concrete sills and two columns of horizontal lights, a 6-light window on the first floor and an 8-light window on the second floor. These appear to be original.

The first story of the north elevation has eight large windows of different configurations but the same style, with metal frames and six or nine lights. The upper rows of all the windows are smoked glass while the lower windows are reflective glass with one operable awning sash. Some lights have been replaced by air conditioning units. There is a single, two-leaf metal door with three upper horizontal lights and a 2-step concrete stoop toward the east end of this elevation. The second story has a solid ribbon of windows, each with three rows of lights. The six central windows have 4 lights across while the two end windows have 3 lights across. Units are separated by narrow metal mullions giving the impression of a horizontal band of light. The two upper lights are wider than the lower light on all the windows. As on the first floor, the upper

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windows are smoked glass while the lower windows are reflective glass with one operable awning sash. All windows on this elevation have concrete sills (continuous on the second story), painted brown. The upper windows only have rowlock headers.

### Statement of exterior integrity

The building retains excellent integrity of location and setting, since it has not been moved from its original location and its setting has not changed significantly since its construction. The building retains excellent integrity of design, with no additions and only minor changes to the fenestration on the rear of the building. The overall fenestration has not been changed, and reflects the International-style pattern of ribbon windows, especially on the north and south elevations. Integrity of materials and workmanship is fair. The brick and concrete exterior is unchanged, except for painting of the concrete on the west and south elevations. However, almost all of the original metal-framed windows on the west and north elevations were replaced with windows with wider frames and glare-proof glass around 1962,<sup>2</sup> and the first-floor windows on the south elevation have been in-filled with fiberglass panels. In spite of these changes, the building retains the feeling and association of a post-war educational facility in Wyoming. It provides a direct link with post-war design and the trend to incorporate gymnasiums and cafeterias into the school facilities plan.

### Interior

The interior entryway continues the exterior treatment, with concrete side walls scored into square blocks. The entryway and first-floor hallway have oak panel wainscoting reminiscent of the 1914 school building. The first floor is roughly divided along the east-west axis into two spaces, a gymnasium-auditorium on the south and a cafeteria, kitchen, offices and classroom on the north. Directly in front of the entrance, two 2-leaf wood doors lead into the gymnasium, which features 500-seat bleachers along the south wall, with windows above. On either end of the bleachers are exterior doors and stairs leading to locker rooms located underneath the bleachers. The gym has a wood floor and painted concrete block walls; the metal trussed roof structure is exposed under a corrugated metal ceiling. The original stage at the east end has been enclosed and converted into an art room.

A hallway from the entrance leads north to offices, then east to the large cafeteria (designed to accommodate 200 students at a time). The cafeteria has a patterned floor of alternating colored squares of red and white linoleum tiles, and structural glazed facing tile laid in a stacked pattern. A coat rack extends the length of the south wall. The east end of the cafeteria leads into the kitchen with a large pass-through window, a small pass-through window and a wood door. Both pass-through windows have plywood covers. The kitchen walls are covered with the same structural glazed facing tile as the cafeteria, with extensive plywood cupboards and stainless steel fixtures along the north and east walls. At the far southeast corner of the building is a single classroom.

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<sup>2</sup> Barbara Butkay Ketchum, *Holy Name Centennial, 1885-1995* (Sheridan, WY, 1985), page 49.

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The main staircase is located in the northwest corner of the building. Since the gymnasium is two stories in height, the second floor has only partial space. A library occupies the area above the entryway at the west end of the building. The north portion is divided into four large classrooms, each with a bank of windows on the north wall, structural glazed facing tile wainscoting, and chalkboards at either end. A built-in storage area comprising plywood cabinets and bookcases flanking a recessed alcove for coats occupies most of the south wall of each classroom. The walls of the second-floor hallway are covered with the same tile used in the cafeteria and kitchen and the floors are carpeted. Lockers and coat hooks line the south wall of the hallway. Original wood doors to the classrooms are recessed about 1' and have small upper lights and plain wood frames.

### Interior integrity

The interior of the 1952 annex retains a surprising degree of integrity, including original wood doors, structural glazed facing tile walls and linoleum-tile floors. The floor plan has remained the same, except for the stage which was enclosed and converted to an art classroom.

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### 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.)

- 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

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**Areas of Significance**

Education  
Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1914 – 1952

**Significant Dates**

1952 (construction of addition)

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Harrison L. Cook, Sheridan (architect of 1952 addition)  
Builder: Sheridan Construction and Milling Company (1952 addition)  
Kenneth Schmidt and George Galida, Design 3 Architects (1983 renovations)

**Statement of Significance**

**Summary Paragraph**

The Holy Name School meets the registration requirements for urban schools in Wyoming under Criteria A and C as set forth in *Educational Facilities in Wyoming, 1850-1960*, Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). The MPDF states that urban and town schools that “have played an important role in the development of the educational system of the state or local district or have contributed to the social or physical development of the community in which they are located”<sup>3</sup> may be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A. The property is eligible in the area of **Education** as one of the oldest Catholic schools in Wyoming, and the oldest Catholic school building in the state. Holy Name has provided education to Catholic and non-Catholic students in Sheridan for almost 100 years, making a significant contribution to education in the community.

<sup>3</sup> Mary Humstone, Clayton Fraser, Rheba Massey, *Educational Facilities in Wyoming, 1850-1960*, Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Park Service (Wyoming SHPO, Cheyenne, 2010), page 232. Hereafter referred to as MPDF.

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Holy Name School meets Criterion Consideration A (religious properties) since it is significant under education as opposed to religion.

The MPDF also states that school buildings that “embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction” and “illustrate prevailing trends in vernacular, empirical or traditional construction” may be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. The two buildings comprising the Holy Name School are representative of two important periods in school architecture in Wyoming: the Progressive period and the Post World War II period. The 1914 school is one of the oldest remaining school buildings in the state, and the second oldest school building in the state still being used as a school.<sup>4</sup> It represents a trend in early 20<sup>th</sup> century grade school design which combined elements of the Prairie and Craftsman styles with the more common Classical Revival to give the school a welcoming and homelike appearance appropriate for young children. The intact interior is a textbook illustration of prevailing trends in school design of the period. The 1952 addition was typical of the many school buildings constructed in Wyoming after World War II, with its hint of the International style in horizontal emphasis, flat roof, minimal ornamentation and bands of large windows. The building is also unique in that it is not an entire school building, but an annex consisting only of a gymnasium/auditorium, cafeteria, kitchen, offices, library and four classrooms. The building represents a trend in postwar Wyoming (and the United States) to add gymnasiums and cafeterias to school buildings.

The period of significance begins in 1914 when the school opened, and continues to 1952 when the new addition was constructed to accommodate a growing enrollment and the new facilities considered necessary for up-to-date schools in the post-World War II era. The school remains substantially unchanged since 1952.

## Narrative Statement of Significance

### Historical Background

As described in *Educational Facilities in Wyoming, 1850-1960* (Multiple Property Documentation Form) parochial and private schools have played a small but significant role in education in Wyoming since as early as 1868. The Catholic Church was particularly active in establishing schools throughout the United States, especially after an 1884 decree calling for parish schools to be established near every church in the country and requiring Catholic parents to send their children to these schools unless given special permission by the Bishop.<sup>5</sup> Through its orders of nuns, the Catholic Church founded thousands of parochial schools throughout the country. By the 1950s, approximately 11% of the nation’s school students were attending Catholic schools, and at the peak of Catholic School enrollment (1964-65) almost 13 percent of the nation’s students were being educated in Catholic Schools.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Clear Creek Elementary School, still in use by the Johnson County School District, was built in 1910.

<sup>5</sup> MPDF, pages 171-172.

<sup>6</sup> MPDF, page 179.

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The Catholic Church opened thirteen schools in Wyoming between 1878 and 2006, many of them like Holy Name taught by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas. From 1875 to 2000, 479 Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth served in Wyoming schools and hospitals.<sup>7</sup> Holy Name School in Sheridan is one of seven Catholic schools still active in Wyoming today. It is the second oldest continuously operating Catholic school in the state, and its 1914 school is the oldest Catholic school building remaining in the state. Wyoming's Catholic school enrollment reached its peak in 1960, with 3,765 students (4.5% of the state's students).<sup>8</sup>

School enrollment throughout the United States increased in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, doubling each decade from 1890 to 1930. In Wyoming, enrollment in public schools increased almost seven-fold during this period, from 7,875 to 54,505 pupils. In 1913, when the Holy Name parish under the leadership of Father John Duffy decided to start a school, Sheridan had several grade schools scattered throughout the city, including two new, 8-classroom brick schools (John S. Taylor School and Coffeen School), and a high school which had been organized in 1892.<sup>9</sup>

Holy Name School was completed in 1914 at a cost of \$19,086. Construction of the school building was financed by an \$8,000 loan from the Diocese of Cheyenne, along with individual donations and assessments from the parish.<sup>10</sup> The school was initially staffed by three nuns from the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, who taught 68 students in grades one through eight their first year.

Although the brick schoolhouse was ready for them when they arrived, the sisters did not have a place to live, so one of the first-floor classrooms was converted to an apartment and its associated cloakroom served as their bathroom. The sisters lived in their classroom apartment until a convent was purchased in 1922. In order to make up for the lost classroom space and to accommodate the growing enrollment, a small frame building, similar to a typical rural school of the time, was constructed in 1920 to the south of the school.<sup>11</sup> Once the sisters moved out of the school building, all the classes were once again held in the original building. First through fourth grades occupied the two first-floor classrooms, while fifth through eighth grades occupied the two second-floor classrooms. The basement was used for an indoor play area during the school day, and hosted evening social events such as stunt nights and dances for high school students.

After it was vacated for classroom use, the "Bungalow" (as the frame building was called) was used for school activities and meetings. It was briefly used as a lunchroom when the school established a hot lunch program, but was razed in 1950 to make way for the new classroom

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<sup>7</sup> Sister Catherine Louise Lebhart, *The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in Wyoming since 1875* (2002; <http://www.dioceseofcheyenne.org/pdfs/history/Sisters%20of%20Charity%20of%20Leavenworth%20History.pdf> accessed October 25, 2012).

<sup>8</sup> MPDF, page 180.

<sup>9</sup> Charles Popovich, *Sheridan County Schools: A History* (Sheridan, Wyoming: by the author, 2001), pages 110-111.

<sup>10</sup> Ketchum, page 13-14.

<sup>11</sup> Ketchum, page 18; also Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, map of Sheridan, 1920.

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building, at which time the kitchen and lunch room were temporarily moved to the basement of the original school building.<sup>12</sup>

Enrollment in the school grew steadily, with 182 students taught by four sisters by 1924 and 190 students by 1935. Although a high school was originally planned, the school never expanded past the eighth grade and students graduating from Holy Name enrolled in Sheridan High School. All of the expenses of attending school at Holy Name, including tuition and books, were paid for by the parish. In addition to the education administered by the sisters, Holy Name initiated a sports program for its male students, starting with a football team in 1931, followed by basketball and track teams. Practice space was a problem, however, since the school had neither a full-length playing field nor a gymnasium. As late as 1948, the school occupied only about one-third of the north half of the city block it stood on.<sup>13</sup>

After World War II Wyoming and the rest of the country experienced a boom in school construction, as population grew, new theories of education were implemented and elementary and secondary education became almost universal. Among the improvements to post-war schools were the addition of gymnasiums to house physical education programs and school cafeterias and the establishment of school lunch programs. In 1948, newly installed Holy Name pastor Father Frederick J. Kimmitt recognized the need to update the parish school facilities with the addition of a cafeteria and a gymnasium.<sup>14</sup> His recognition of the need for more space coincided with an ambitious, \$3 million school building program launched in 1947 under the auspices of Patrick McGovern, bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne from 1912 to 1951. Besides the addition to Holy Name, McGovern oversaw the construction of new schools in Laramie, Rawlins, and Rock Springs, and an addition to the existing school in Casper.

The parish set up a school building committee which identified the need for additional classrooms to accommodate the increase in school enrollment.<sup>15</sup> The committee also added two meeting rooms and a library to the original plans for a kitchen, cafeteria and gymnasium. A school building fund campaign was launched in 1949 under the management of the American City Bureau of Chicago. Sheridan architect Harrison L. Cook designed the new school building,<sup>16</sup> and construction began in 1950. The new 109' by 138' building contained a combination gymnasium and auditorium with a stage at one end, bleachers on one side and

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<sup>12</sup> Ketchum, pages 21, 32.

<sup>13</sup> Sanborn map, 1927, rev. 1948.

<sup>14</sup> Sources revealed two different accounts of the impetus for building the new school, both attributed to Father Kimmitt. The *History of Holy Name Parish 1940-2000* asserts that Father Kimmitt originally appointed a building committee for construction of a parish hall and the building committee decided during the design process to add the gym, classrooms, etc., while Ketchum (32) asserts that Kimmitt appointed the building committee to provide a school with a cafeteria and gymnasium. Given the needs of the school, the statewide school building program and the customary design process, the second explanation is most likely correct.

<sup>15</sup> *History of Holy Name Parish 1940-2000*.

<sup>16</sup> Ketchum and other sources refer to the architect of the building as "Harrison and Cool." However, no firm with that name existed in Sheridan at the time, according to the R.L. Polk and Company Sheridan City Directories. It is likely that Harrison L. Cook, the only architect listed in the directory, was the architect for this building. This is confirmed in the *History of Holy Name Parish 1940-2000*.

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locker rooms below the bleachers; a spacious stainless-steel kitchen and cafeteria that could accommodate 200 students; four classrooms; a library equipped with 1,000 books and audio-visual equipment, and meeting rooms now used as offices for the principal and staff.

The school addition was justified by the increase in enrollment over the next decade, from 220 students in 1950 to 325 in 1960. The school reached its peak enrollment of 375 in 1962, and thereafter began a gradual decline.

Even before construction began on the new building, a hot lunch program was started by the women of the parish. The National School Lunch Act of 1946 had initiated the School Lunch Program for the nation's public schools, intended to "promote and safeguard the health of the nation's children, to increase the consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities, and to prevent waste of spoilage of food commodities acquired through price support programs."<sup>17</sup> The Wyoming Department of Education began its own school lunch program in 1947, resulting in a major change from children bringing their lunches from home to receiving hot lunches prepared in a school cafeteria. This in turn resulted in major changes to the school facilities, with the addition of cafeterias and lunchrooms.

The Holy Name lunch program was temporarily housed in the Bungalow; when that building was demolished to make way for the new school building, the basement of the 1914 school was converted to a temporary kitchen and lunchroom.<sup>18</sup>

Like many schools in the post World War II period, Holy Name experienced a shortage of teachers, and began hiring lay teachers in the late 1950s. The last of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth principals at Holy Name retired from the school in 1993.

In 1969, a Sunday morning preschool was opened in the basement of the original school building, but Holy Name did not have a kindergarten until 1983. At this time, the 1914 building was remodeled with new basement exits and the new brick entrance, designed by Kenneth Schmidt and George Galida and of Design 3 Architects in Sheridan.<sup>19</sup>

## School architecture

### 1914 Building

The Holy Name Elementary School is a two-story, brick school building, which exhibits stylistic elements of the Bungalow/Craftsman and Classical Revival styles. The eclectic nature of the building's architecture is typical of Wyoming town schools of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, as described in the MPDF (see page 193, for example). The school building follows

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<sup>17</sup> MPDF, page 118.

<sup>18</sup> Ketchum, page 32.

<sup>19</sup> Ketchum, pages 54 and 69.

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the “Quincy Plan” in layout, with self-contained classrooms for each grade (or in this case shared grades), with a desk for the teacher and rows of desks for students.<sup>20</sup>

Built just before the start of the Progressive era in Wyoming education (1915-1930), Holy Name School can be compared with many of the second and third generation grade schools in Wyoming, which tended to be larger than the earlier schools, two stories in height and constructed of brick or stone with restrained elements of architectural style.<sup>21</sup>

Since no particular architect has been identified with this school, it is likely that the school building committee drew upon the many pattern books that were available for all types of buildings during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, including homes, barns, churches, banks and libraries as well as schools.<sup>22</sup> The building committee might also have drawn from the bulletins and circulars produced by the Wyoming Board of Education. Exterior features of schools of this period include brick or masonry construction with large double-hung windows with articulated lintels and sills. Elementary schools of this period were especially designed to be more “homelike” and comfortable for younger children, incorporating elements of the Prairie and Craftsman styles. With its clipped side gables and bracketed eaves, Holy Name School fits into this category.

Interior features include a central staircase and hall, with symmetrical division of the remaining space into two or four large classrooms per floor. Classrooms have high ceilings, wainscoting to the height of the windowsills, and large windows providing abundant natural light. Blackboards cover the interior walls. Each classroom has an associated cloakroom which also has room for storage. Many schools, Holy Name included, featured a partially exposed basement that provided space for classes, offices and/or play area, as well as rooms for the furnace and other utilities and storage.<sup>23</sup>

### 1952 addition

The 1952 gymnasium and classroom addition was designed by Sheridan architect Harrison L. Cook in a modernist style in keeping with architectural trends of the period, and a marked departure from earlier schools. As noted in the MPDF, schools built during this period generally lack ornamentation or references to architectural styles of the past and tend to resemble commercial and industrial buildings of the period, rather than the previous generation of school buildings. They are horizontal in emphasis, with flat roofs, windows in sets or ribbons, generally faced in brick and stone or concrete. Interiors utilize new materials such as glazed tiles on the walls, linoleum-tile floors and acoustical tile ceilings.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>20</sup> MPDF, page 192. The name comes from a multi-story elementary school built in Boston in 1847.

<sup>21</sup> MPDF, page 197.

<sup>22</sup> See for example *Palliser's Model Homes* published in 1878, which includes a design for a public school building similar in form to the Holy Name School.

<sup>23</sup> Palliser & Palliser & Co., *Palliser's Model Homes* (Bridgport, CT, 1878), page 68-69.

<sup>24</sup> MPDF, pages 225-226

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## 8. Major Bibliographical References

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Sister Catherine Louise Lebhart, *The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in Wyoming since 1875* (2002; <http://www.dioceseofcheyenne.org/pdfs/history/Sisters%20of%20Charity%20of%20Leavenworth%20History.pdf> accessed October 25, 2012).

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**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: Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming; Holy Name Catholic Church, Sheridan, Wyoming.

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

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## 9. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 13 | Easting: 345652 | Northing: 4962130 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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

1914 school building: 111 South Connor, Sheridan, Wyoming. Palmer Addition, Block 6, Lots 1-15.

1952 addition: 121 South Connor, Sheridan, Wyoming. Palmer Addition, Block 6, Lots 16 - 25.

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

The boundaries comprise the lot lines of the properties on which the two buildings stand.

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**10. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Mary M. Humstone  
organization: Humstone Consulting  
street & number: 4420 Bingham Hill Rd.  
city or town: For Collins state: CO zip code: 80521  
e-mail humstone@uwyo.edu  
telephone: 970 482-8939  
date: October 31, 2012

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Holy Name Catholic School  
City or Vicinity: Sheridan

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County: Sheridan State: Wyoming  
Photographer: Mary Humstone

Date Photographed: June, 2012

Northwest corner of 1914 building, photographer facing southeast.  
1 of 22

Second floor of west façade, photographer facing east.  
2 of 22

Southwest corner of 1914 building, photographer facing northeast.  
3 of 22

South elevation of 1914 building, photographer facing northwest.  
4 of 22

East elevation of 1914 building, photographer facing west.  
5 of 22

Northwest corner of 1914 building, photographer facing southeast.  
6 of 22

Typical classroom in 1914 building  
7 of 22

Doors leading to classrooms in 1914 building, photographer facing east.  
8 of 22

Balustrade in main hallway in 1914 building, photographer facing southeast.  
9 of 22

Detail of underside of stairs, photographer facing west.  
10 of 22

Detail of window trim.  
11 of 22

West façade of 1952 building, photographer facing southeast.  
12 of 22

Main entry to 1952 building, photographer facing northeast.  
13 of 22

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South elevation of 1952 building, photographer facing northwest.  
14 of 22

East elevation of 1952 building, photographer facing northwest.  
15 of 22

North elevation of 1952 building, photographer facing southwest.  
16 of 22

Northwest corner of 1952 building, photographer facing southeast.  
17 of 22

Gymnasium in 1952 building, photographer facing southwest.  
18 of 22

Cafeteria in 1952 building.  
19 of 22

Library in 1952 building.  
20 of 22

Hallway in 1952 building.  
21 of 22

Entrance to classrooms in 1952 building.  
22 of 22

**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 100 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.