

DEC 3 1987

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Challis (Partial Inventory: Architectural Properties)SITE NAME: Old Challis Historic District SITE # 1LOCATION: Block 36, Challis, IdahoOWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: See attached owners listQUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Challis 15 minute ACREAGE: less than oneVERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The Challis Historic District includes lots 1, 2, 3, and T-275 in block 36, Challis; see enclosed sketch map.UTM(S): 11/7,19,725/49,31,325DATE OR PERIOD: 1876-1890's EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: localAREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

Fair condition altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Old Challis Historic District includes three log houses and one board-and-batten house lying within a half block on the southern side of Challis in an area identified locally as the oldest section of town. The four buildings line Second and Third avenues and are separated by the interior of the half block, which is overgrown with period plantings. The buildings remain in fair condition and are potentially preservable for the interpretation of folk architecture. The district is surrounded by vacant lots, altered houses from the period under consideration, and much newer trailers and tract housing. There are no intrusions.

Inventory: (1) Log House I. This is a log house made up of two rectangular sections placed end to end. The eastern section is built of logs sawn to four-inch planks and joined with even-tiered square notching secured by nails. This section has a tarpaper-covered roof supported on exposed rafters. The western section of round, peeled logs has split-pole chinking and an exterior mud daub in the interstices between logs. The corner joints use a round notch cut in the log tops with the logs extending beyond the notching. A shallow dirt-covered roof is supported on log purlins. The building's two doors are in its north facade.

(2) Log House II. This round-log house has a westerly gable-front plan. Its peeled logs, joined with V-notching, extend slightly beyond the corners. Mud chinking and split-pole chinking fill the spaces between logs. A gable roof supported by log purlins is covered with poles. The house has one window--a six-over-six-light double-hung sash--in the south wall. The door is paneled. Attached to the eastern wall is a board-and-batten lean-to.

(3) Log House III. This round-log building with square notching has an east porch overhang of several feet, supported by the roof purlins and corner posts. The batten door is in the north wall. Full-length shingles terminate at the gable edge with a length of protective wooden flashing. The log interstices are filled with cement or lime mortar. The building stands on log sills.

(4) Frame and Log House. The two sections of this building--frame and log--join to form a gable-front house with a side lean-to. The gabled frame sections on the north combine board-and-batten construction and clapboard siding. The southerly log lean-to

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has unpeeled round-log walls resting on log sills. Square notching, secured with an occasional large nail, joins the logs at their ends. The building's front and back paneled doors and six-over-six double-hung sash windows seem out of proportion to its modest size.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Old Challis Historic District preserves a significant sampling of log architecture as it is found in the southern Salmon River Mountains. The log buildings here are similar to those surveyed along the river south to Stanley, in the Stanley Basin, and in the Sawtooth Valley, many of which are rapidly deteriorating. Within the half-block area, one can observe a good variety of techniques: various notchings, log shapes, foundations, and roofs. The two roof styles common to the area are dirt layer over purlins, with a shallow pitch, and a framed rafter system with wood or tarpaper covering, more steeply pitched. In common with most Salmon River cabins, the log houses have round logs and the rougher varieties of notching (V and saddle).

The board-and-batten house included in this district for its evident age and proximity to the log houses is an example of a house facade, and possibly a house type, that has been observed in other Idaho mining towns. Such houses have a one- to one-and-a-half-story gable front, often with a symmetrical facade and sometimes with Greek Revival decoration. This house's narrow proportions, steep roof, and board-and-batten siding seem to suggest rather the vernacular Gothic.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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OWNERS LIST:

Ione Clark
Box 72
Challis, ID 83226

Log House I

Fauntella Miller
Box 21
Salmon, ID 83226

Log Houses II and III

Estella Rosenkrance
Mackay, ID 83251

Frame and Log House

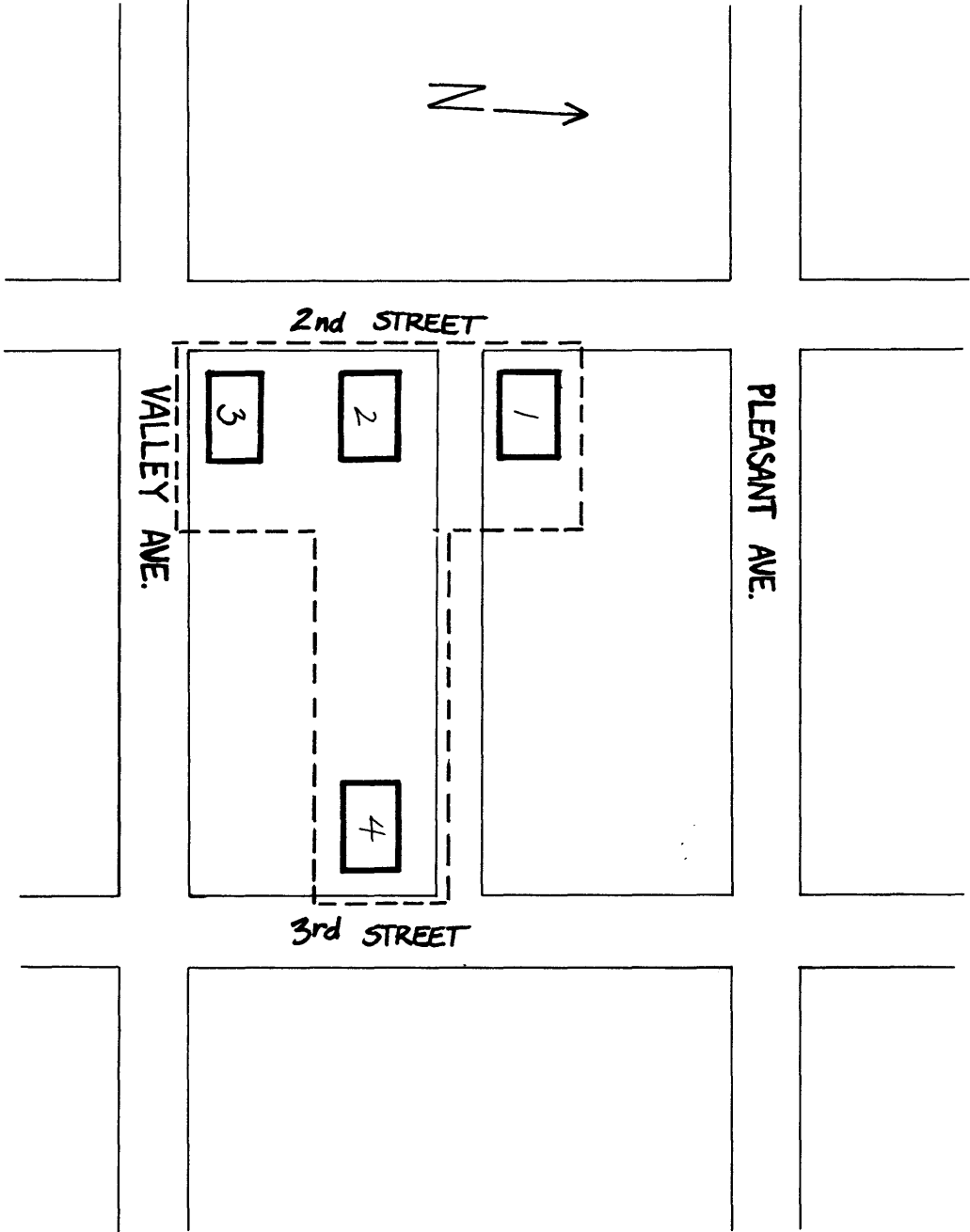
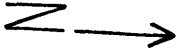
OLD CHALLIS

HISTORIC DISTRICT

CHALLIS, IDAHO

NOT TO SCALE - 1980

DISTRICT BOUNDARY - - - - -



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