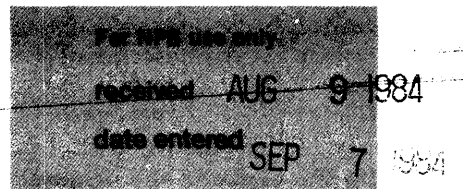


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Placerville Historic District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number roughly bounded by Placerville townsite limits N/A not for publication

city, town Placerville N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Idaho code 016 county Boise code 015

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Boise County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Idaho City state Idaho 83631

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>See site 50 in inventory below</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The town of Placerville is set along Granite Creek on a relatively level area surrounded by steep forested hills and mountains. Unlike most mining towns, whose street patterns are elongated to conform to the landscape, Placerville has a grid pattern arranged around a central town square or plaza. Facing onto this square are the chief commercial and some of the institutional buildings of the town (sites 3, 4, 5, 37, and 46 to 49), and scattered in the surrounding blocks are the town's surviving historic houses, one church (site 11), and a school (site 24). The district includes a few outbuildings, and other features of the cultural landscape include dirt streets, growing vines and shrubs, fencing, and a gasoline pump (site 49). Many of the district buildings are surrounded with coniferous trees.

The district buildings are small in scale, mostly one or one and one-half stories, and all but two are built of frame construction. Most common is the stud frame construction with clapboard or shiplap siding, but board and batten, vertical planking, brick, and rubblestone are also represented. Many of the buildings draw on the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Recurrent decorative motifs include returned eaves, enclosed gable pediments, shaped shingles, entablature-like moldings over windows and doors, turned porch posts, and paneled doors and storefront woodwork. Frame buildings are either painted white or left unpainted. Many of the frame buildings exhibit a high level of workmanship and materials, especially when considered in the context of mining-town architecture.

Buildings are placed irregularly on their lots, and there is no consistent setback from front and side lot boundaries. The town is more sparsely settled than it was during the period of active mining between 1862 and 1942 because some buildings have been lost through fires, demolition, and deterioration and because the population had dropped. Those that remain are a good cross-section of the building types and styles shown in early photographs of the town. The district retains its street plan, major space (the town plaza); major commercial, institutional, and residential buildings; dirt streets, plantings, and other cultural features (see the first paragraph above) from the period immediately after the 1899 fire; and a few buildings representative of the earlier period. In addition, the district has considerable potential for historic archaeological exploration, as the sites of 1862 and later mining settlement exists within district boundaries.

District boundaries are drawn to include the original townsite of Placerville and to exclude more recent summer home development west of site 16. The boundaries extend west to include the Placerville cemetery and north to include the Hiatt house, which is historically associated with the construction of many of the houses in the townsite.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1862-ca. 1941      **Builder/Architect** See individual inventory listings, item 7

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Placerville Historic District is architecturally significant as an area in which a number of late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century mining town buildings survive in good condition and relatively unaltered. Representing the use of a variety of materials, early construction techniques, and period styles (principally the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles), the buildings also convey a sense of the town's period through their arrangement around a town square and along the town grid plan, and through their association with plantings, out-buildings, and other remains of the cultural landscape. The district is important, too, as representative of Boise Basin settlement, Idaho's major gold rush. Placerville and Idaho City survived as substantial towns that continued beyond the mining frontier era as permanent communities. Among Boise Basin mining settlements, Placerville is comparable only with Idaho City, a National Register district that has felt more pressure from tourist development. While Idaho City retains a greater density of buildings, the buildings of Placerville represent a high quality of materials and craftsmanship and a good degree of architectural integrity.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property about 61 acres

Quadrangle name Placerville

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A 

1	1
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5	8	4	8	4	0
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4	8	6	6	2	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	1
---	---

5	8	4	8	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	6	5	6	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	1
---	---

5	8	4	1	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	6	5	6	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D 

1	1
---	---

5	8	4	1	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	6	5	9	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

E 

1	1
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5	8	4	6	4	0
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4	8	6	6	2	0	0
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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nomination includes T7N R4E section 14, the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Boise Meridian; and the Placerville Original Townsite (excluding block 1, lots 46 through and including 52 and lot 97, block 15, lots 94, 95, and 96, block 14 lots 86 through and including 93, and the Westview Subdivision).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery, State Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society date June 3, 1984

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise state Idaho 83702-7695

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Merle Wells

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 28 July 1984

**For NPS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
J. [Signature] 9-7-84  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

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date entered

Placerville Historic District  
Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

Placerville Historic District Inventory.

- 1. Walt Hiatt House Contributory  
built ca. 1900

A two-story gable-roofed frame house. This was the office and residence of Walt Hiatt, who operated a local sawmill that supplied lumber for many of the houses built in Placerville. Will Hiatt, Walt's son, built many of the buildings in the district.

- 2. A house of recent construction Non-Contributory
- 3. Boise Basin Mercantile Contributory  
built ca. 1890

The mercantile building has dirt insulation in its attic. The building is one story, with brick and rubblestone walls. It is rectangular with a gable roof. The original porch is missing, but the building retains an original or quite early storefront arrangement. On the interior the building still has its high ceiling, high shelves and pull-out bins, and several glass-covered showcases. There is a raised office space in the northeast corner. The mercantile was owned and operated by C. C. Fairchild, who also owned a store in Idaho City. Currently owned by the City of Placerville, the building is maintained by the local museum.

- 4. James McDevitt butchershop Contributory  
current name: City Hall  
built: ca. 1900

A rectangular gable-roofed brick building built in common bond. The building retains an early storefront arrangement of double-hung sash windows and inset doors. The gables and roof structure are frame. Side and rear window and door openings have segmental arches. The building is one story with dirt in the attic for insulation. James McDevitt also had butcher shops in Idaho City and Centerville. This building served as a post office until 1922.

- 5. Magnolia Saloon Contributory

A one-story frame building with a gable roof, a porch with turned post, and three front entrances with four-light double doors. Ornamentation includes denticulations above the front doors.

- 6. A house of recent construction Non-Contributory

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7. March House Contributory  
Moved to Placerville ca. 1900

According to March, a Placerville mayor, this house was a trapper's cabin brought into Placerville to its present location in about 1900.

8. A. C. Gallupe House Contributory  
built 1900  
builder: Will Hiatt

A frame house with clapboard siding and a gable roof. Porch has octagonal posts. Windows are doubled and have entablature-like moldings. There is a gabled wall dormer with shaped shingles on the south side. Gables have eave returns and are filled with shaped shingles. The house was built with lumber from the Hiatt mill. A. C. Gallupe was one of the principal figures in the Mineral Mining Company.

9. Gallupe office Contributory  
built 1899

Built as a temporary residence for Gallupe while building 8 was under construction, this building later served as Gallupe's office. It is frame with a gable roof, a porch on the east side, and a rectangular plan.

10. Shed Contributory

A rectangular gable-roofed storage shed associated with the Gallupe house and office.

11. Emmanuel Episcopal Church Contributory  
built 1906  
builders: Will Hiatt and Darby Spencer

A rectangular frame church with a steep gable roof and clapboard siding. There is a gabled, closed country porch. The front gable end is ornamented with a parabolic closed apron composed of shingles and a center bracket. An inset tower has a pyramidal cupola. There are two stained glass windows on each side of the nave, with a molded entablature above. The stained glass windows were donated to the Placerville church by a Seaside, Oregon, congregation from their Seaside church building. Overhanging eaves are bracketed.

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12. Johnson House Contributory  
built 1901  
builder: Sam Rodemack

A frame Queen Anne style cottage with a cross plan, a gable front and clapboard siding. Decorative elements include a gable apron, eave returns, a plank cornice line, doors with transoms and Queen Anne panes, and turned porch posts and brackets.

13. Gunderson House Contributory  
built 1899

A T-plan frame house with an inset entry off a raised shed-roofed porch.

14. John Brogan House Contributory  
built 1912

A large L-shaped house with a shingled forward-facing gable and a hip-ridge block behind. The house has clapboard siding and enclosed overhanging eaves.

15. miner's cabin Contributory

Now used as a shed, this building is reputed to be one of the oldest in Placerville and may have survived the 1899 fire. It measures 10 by 15 feet and is constructed of board and batten, with a gable roof.

16. Jim McDevitt House Contributory  
built about 1885  
builder: Sam Rodemack

A two-story frame house built for Jim McDevitt, owner of a butchershop in Placerville.

17. Jim McDevitt Slaughter House Contributory  
built about 1885

A one-story board-and-batten building built of boards cut at the Hiatt sawmill.

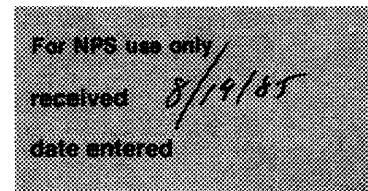
18. Virden House Non-Contributory

A house of recent construction.

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19. Marmaley House Contributory  
built about 1920  
  
A rectangular, one-story board-and-batten house.
20. Randal House Contributory  
built about 1910  
  
A one-story, rectangular board-and-batten house.
21. Nedean House Contributory  
built about 1910  
  
A rectangular board-and-batten house with a covered open porch on the south (front) side.
22. Hinkey House Non-Contributory  
  
A house of recent construction.
23. McKenzie House Non-Contributory  
  
A house of recent construction.
24. Placerville School Compatible  
built 1938  
  
A one-story frame building with rectangular plan, a lateral front, and exposed rafters.
25. McKenzie Barn Contributory  
built 1890  
  
A gable-roofed frame barn with a shed addition along the south side. The building was called the Company Barn because it was used as a horse barn by the Mountain Chief Mining Company.





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Placerville Historic District  
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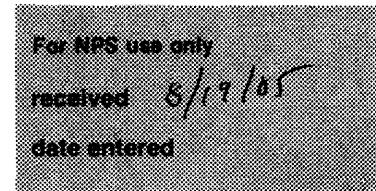
Page 6

34. Olson House Non-Contributory  
A house of recent construction.
35. Darby Ramft House Contributory  
built 1906  
A frame house with a wraparound porch on the north and west walls. The house is one and one-half stories with an L-plan.
36. Kenally House Contributory  
built 1906  
A two-story house with a rectangular plan. Of frame construction, it has open porches on the east and south walls.
37. Assay Office Contributory  
Common name: Corky Heron House  
A small frame house with two rooms, and a gable roof.
38. Hockhalter House Non-Contributory  
A house of recent construction.
39. Masonic Hall Contributory  
builder: attributed to Sam Rodemack  
A two-story frame building with a gable front and a gable roof. Decorative features include entablature-like moldings above the one-over-one double-hung sash windows and the panel front door, shaped shingles in the front gable, and eave returns. Set in the front gable is the legend "A F & M" above the Masonic compass motif. There is a fine collection of early wallpaper throughout the interior.
40. Dunbar House Non-Contributory  
A house of recent construction.

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41. A rectangular-plan frame gable-roofed house of one and one-half stories. There is an open porch on the north (front) wall.
42. Myers House Non-Contributory  
A house of recent construction.
43. Davies House Non-Contributory  
A house of recent construction.
44. Hanson House Non-Contributory  
A house of recent construction.
45. Newnham House Non-Contributory  
A house of recent construction.
46. Craigs barn Contributory  
built 1909  
Built of horizontal planking and exterior studs, the Craigs barn has a central gable roof and two shed-roofed side additions. Gables are board and batten.
47. Store Contributory  
The original store on this location was built in 1874, burned in 1898, rebuilt in 1899, burned in 1933, and rebuilt in 1934. In 1922 the third (1899) building became the post office.
48. Garage Compatible  
built 1940's  
A rectangular frame building with vertical plank siding and a metal-covered gable roof.

2-5

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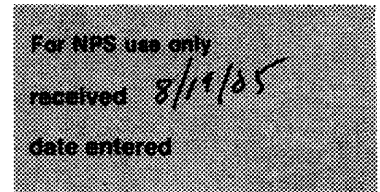
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Placerville Historic District

Continuation sheet

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Page 8



49. Garage  
rebuilt 1941

Compatible

This building burned and was rebuilt in 1941. It is a simple gable-roofed rectangular building with vertical plank siding and a metal sliding door. A Veltex gasoline pump survives in front of the building.

50. Locklear House  
built 1900

Contributory

Moved to present location from one block north (date of move unknown). A frame house with a pyramidal roof.

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The town of Placerville was founded in December, 1862, when thousands of miners began to enter Boise Basin to search for gold. By June, 1863, the population of Placerville was 2,000 people. Initially the first stop for suppliers coming into the Basin, Placerville became an important center for mining claims spread throughout the surrounding hills. Idaho City, its chief rival, had a longer mining season and soon eclipsed Placerville to become the main Boise Basin town and the county seat of Boise County.

Unlike the earlier Idaho mining areas of Florence and Pierce, the Boise Basin mines provided good returns over a period of many years, the peak years being 1863 through 1866. For that reason the Boise Basin rush was significant in early Idaho settlement, bringing substantial numbers of people who stayed to establish towns and providing a population base for retailing and agricultural settlement in the Boise Valley. Boise Basin had a higher percentage of families than did most mining areas, and the major towns, like Placerville and Idaho City, acquired substantial buildings, lodges, churches, schools, and post offices. Placerville was unusual in that it even had a street grid and a town square, known locally as the "plaza." Additionally, it had an Episcopal church, 13 saloons, seven restaurants, five butcher shops, five blacksmith shops, as well as hotels, druggists, express agents, bakeries, livery barns, carpenters, sawmills, and-- attesting to the presence of women--dressmakers.

Mining in Placerville began with placer workings for gold, but miners soon turned to quartz mining as well. By 1864, a stamp mill was working in the area. Hydraulic giants were also used. By 1870, however, much of the excess population of the region had been drained off to other mining rushes and returns on claims had fallen somewhat. The population in Placerville shrank from 2500 in 1863 and 1864 to 318 in 1870. By that time a good percentage of the population was Chinese, as the Chinese were allowed to work the less rewarding claims that white miners would not touch. Chinese also established services like laundries and restaurants, although apparently no above-ground remains of their community survive in Placerville.

As was the case in most mining towns, Placerville suffered more than once from fires that burned a large part of the town. The fire that is most remembered is the 1899 fire, which "practically destroyed the town" (Ashcroft, p. 5) The streetscape remaining today dates mostly from the rebuilding immediately after that fire and another fire that burned several buildings ten months later. A few buildings of earlier date survive, and there is potential for numerous historic archaeological sites below ground. In addition, a few newer buildings represent later development during a depression era that helped gold mining between 1930 and 1942, when wartime restrictions included suspension of mining. During that period, dredge mining was used to get at gold that could not be retrieved using nineteenth-century methods.

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This nomination is bounded to represent mining town development, and buildings on or in the vicinity of the town grid of Placerville and associated with the settlement's development are included in the nomination. Boundaries are drawn to exclude portions of the town plat that contain only recent vacation home development.

The nomination is prepared in response to a request from the Placerville mayor. Members of the local historical society provided assistance in identifying buildings and researching their history.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Bird, Annie Laurie. Boise, the Peace Valley. Caldwell: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1934.

Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau map of Placerville. June 1930.

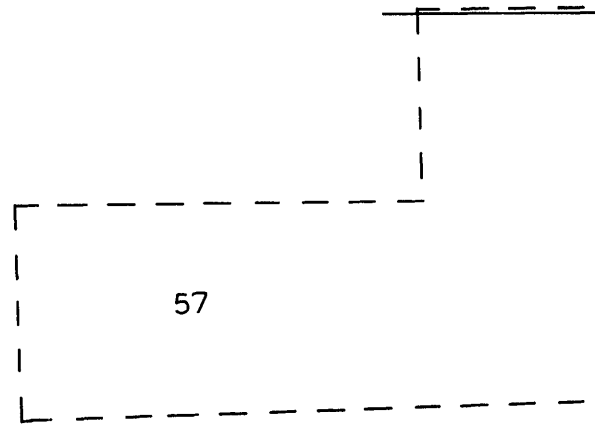
"Sketch of Mrs. Harry Ashcroft." [1910] MS 455. Idaho State Historical Society, Society, Boise.

Sisk. "Placerville Business Houses as Remembered." MS 455. Idaho State Historical Society, Boise.

Wells, Merle W. Gold Camps and Silver Cities. Bulletin 22, Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology. 2nd edition. Moscow, Idaho: The Bureau, 1983.

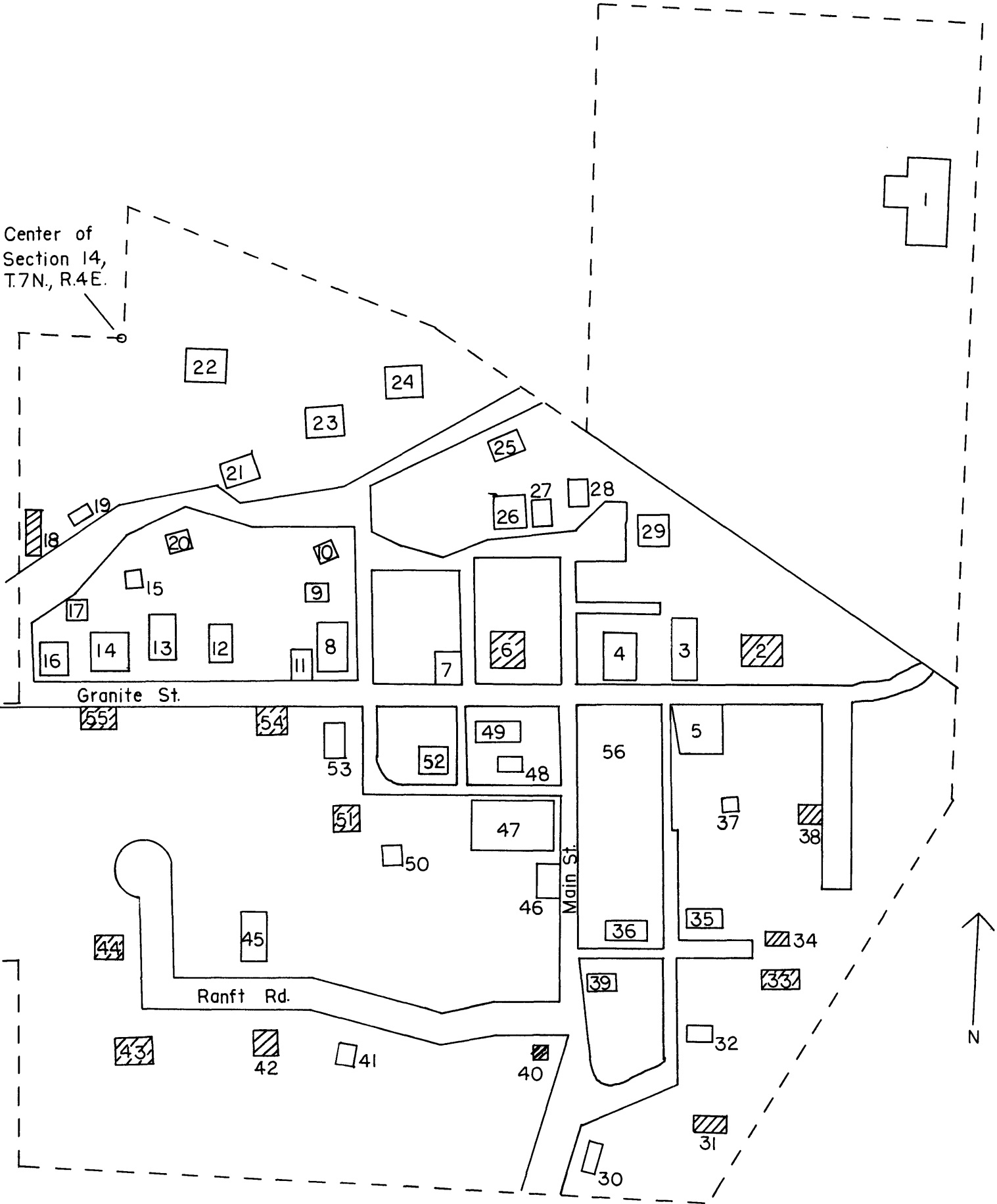
# PLACERVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLACERVILLE, IDAHO  
- - DISTRICT BOUNDARY  
□ CONTRIBUTORY  
▣ NON-CONTRIBUTORY  
Map 1 of 2





Center of  
Section 14,  
T.7N., R.4E.



Not to scale