

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 09 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Downtown Rock Springs Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number North Front St., South Main St., not for publication N/A
K Street, B Street, Broadway

city or town Rock Springs vicinity N/A
state Wyoming code 56 county Sweetwater code 37 zip code 82601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Walter Buckenwade
Signature of certifying official

12/2/93
Date

Walter Buckenwade
State or Federal agency and bureau

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In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the
National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the
National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Ma J. M. Hay - 11/19/94

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====
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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>27</u>	<u>18</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>27</u>	<u>18</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

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

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE

Sub: specialty store

organizational

financial institution

restaurant

department store

GOVERNMENT

city hall

post office

RECREATION AND CULTURE

theater

TRANSPORTATION

rail-related

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE

Sub: specialty store

organizational

financial institution

GOVERNMENT

city hall

post office

TRANSPORTATION

rail-related

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN/Richardsonian Romanesque

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-Classical Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT/ Art Deco

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8. Statement of Significance
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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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
ETHNIC HERITAGE
TRANSPORTATION

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Period of Significance 1870-1943

Significant Dates

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property N/A

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A.	12	648200mE	4605220mN	C.	12	648590mE	4605330mN
B.	12	648425mE	4605425mN	D.	12	648330mE	4604965mN

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Robert G. Rosenberg, Historian
organization Rosenberg Historical Consultants date August 15, 1993
street & number 739 Crow Creek Road telephone (307)632-1144
city or town Cheyenne state WY zip code 82009

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Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Sweetwater County, Wyoming

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7. Description

The Downtown Rock Springs Historic District is comprised of portions of eight blocks of the central business district in the original townsite plat of Rock Springs, Wyoming. The District contains forty-five buildings, twenty-seven of which are considered to be contributing elements to the District. Buildings include structures built for commercial, financial, governmental, social, recreational, and transportation purposes. The irregular boundaries of the District have been drawn to include all buildings that reflect or contribute to the visual and historical nature of the area, and to exclude areas containing noncontributing buildings wherever possible.

The Downtown Rock Springs Historic District is unique in that it was bisected into north and south sectors by the Union Pacific Railroad mainline and sidings. Most of the buildings in the district are located along North Front and South Main Streets and face the railroad tracks. The Union Pacific Depot and Warehouse are located on the south side of the railroad tracks within the railroad right-of-way. During the late nineteenth century, the railroad tracks presented a very real safety hazard and served to impede ready access to the north and south portions of the commercial district. However, by the turn of the century, a pedestrian bridge was constructed over the tracks by the Union Pacific Railroad to allow safer and easier passage between the north and south portions of the commercial district. Later in the twentieth century, a vehicle underpass and overpass and a pedestrian underpass were constructed to allow easy flow of foot and vehicle traffic between the two sectors. Nevertheless, the presence of the railroad tracks is perhaps the chief factor in the growth and development of the City of Rock Springs.

The centrally located Union Pacific Depot (No. 19 on the attached sketch map), the impressive stone City Hall with its Richardsonian Romanesque architectural elements (No. 42), the First Security Bank with its white terra cotta tile covering (No. 30), and the old United States Post Office (No. 45) are the cornerstones of the southern half of the district because of their key functions, architecture, and dominating physical presences. The old North Side State Bank was formerly a key element to the north portion of the district, but it was razed in the early 1990s and a new bank built onsite. Now the Park Hotel (No. 3) and the Callas Realty Building (No. 11) are the dominant structures, the former due to its size and height, dominating the skyline, and the latter because of its impressive sandstone construction and position on a corner lot in the center of the north side. Overall, the

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District contains a wide variety of architectural forms, dimensions, and materials representing the different dominant building periods and architectural preferences in the history of the growth of the City. The architectural forms include frame falsefronts, Late Victorian Italianate, Romanesque Revival, and Neo-Classical Revival buildings, and many simple brickfront commercial buildings without strong stylistic origins. The facades of many of these buildings were modified in the 1920s, the 1930s, and the early 1940s to reflect the Art Deco Movement, but the second stories often retain their original ornate cornices and other Late Victorian Italianate detailing. A wide range of building materials are represented, including locally-fired brick, wood, and locally-quarried sandstone. The individual buildings within the District are described below; sequential numbers correspond with locations on the sketch map.

1) 117 K Street (New Grand Cafe), Contributing

The building that currently houses the New Grand Cafe is a two-story reinforced concrete and coursed ashlar structure. This Late Victorian Italianate commercial building was built by John Bertagnoli in 1911. The first floor was leased to the North Side State Bank when it was first formed in 1912. The original building had a typical recessed entrance with flanking display windows, kickplates, and a clerestory composed of small glass tiles. There was a second entrance for access to the second story. The upper portion of the facade was finished in coursed, rock-faced sandstone with a decorative metal cornice. Second story windows were regularly-spaced one over one-light double-hung units.

The current building is quite similar to the original (26' x 75'). It retains the decorative cornice and stone facade. The street level has been altered by the removal of the northern display windows. The clerestory area has been covered with a signboard bearing the current name of the business. There is also a metal neon sign suspended above the entrance. The second story windows have also been altered. The building retains much of its original form, scale, and materials and therefore has sufficient physical and architectural integrity to convey feeling and association with its period of historical significance.

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2) 105 K Street (Christ's Ministeries), Contributing

The building that currently houses Christ's Ministeries is a brick, two-story, flat-roofed commercial building located at the northwest corner of K Street and Fifth Street. This building is typical of a corner commercial building of the early twentieth century. It was originally a one-story wood frame building constructed sometime prior to 1894 and was formerly occupied by C. Juel and Company. Sometime in the late 1910s or early 1920s, the wood frame building was replaced with the current two-story brick structure in the same location. It housed the Union Mercantile Company until 1978. It is essentially the same as when built with the exception of aluminum and glass entrance doors and a later brick addition on the southwest elevation.

The building is rectangular in shape with a canted corner entrance. It is constructed with red brick and has a concrete foundation. The roof is flat and covered with rolled roofing. Decorative brick work is used on the beveled corners and above the second story windows. There is also a decorative poured concrete cornice. Windows are typically large plate glass units with multi-paned clerestories on both the first and second floors and brick pilasters separate the units. Black terra cotta tile is used around the windows and doors on the street level. The main entrance to the store is on the canted corner. It is recessed with sidelights and consists of a double aluminum and glass door. There is a simple decorative terra cotta secondary cornice running above the first story doors and windows. There is a metal neon sign bearing the name Union Mercantile Company suspended from the canted corner extending from the top of the entrance to the top of the parapet.

3) 19 Elk Street (Park Hotel), Contributing

The Park Hotel is a brick, four-story, flat-roofed building (94' x 75') that was constructed in 1914-15 and is representative of twentieth century commercial architecture. The chief architectural features are a contrasting white terra cotta-capped parapet and secondary cornice and a darker shade of red brick used only for the fourth floor. The fourth floor was added sometime in the 1920s. The building was designed by D.D. Spani, a prominent Rock Springs architect. The street level of the Park Hotel has been modified so that the south elevation that once included a pedimented entrance and shops with display windows has been covered and closed in with red bricks. This portion of the hotel is now the "Sage Room" where a bar and lounge are located. The east elevation has also been altered and modernized with

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brickwork filling in arched windows, display windows, and recessed entrances, and smaller rectangular plate glass windows have been installed. The old Park Grille portion is now the Tumbleweed Coffee Shop. The remainder of the building, including the second through fourth floors, remains essentially the same.

The Park Hotel rests on a concrete foundation. The lower three stories were constructed with light red bricks, and the fourth story with dark red brick. The roof is flat and covered with rolled roofing. It is surrounded by a terra cotta-capped brick parapet. The street level was modified during a 1976 renovation of the building, generally closing or altering original arched windows, display windows, and recessed openings with red brick walls and plate glass windows. The remaining stories have regularly spaced and aligned rectangular window openings with one over one-light double-hung windows with metal sash and frames. The fourth story has four over one-light double-hung units. There is a white terra cotta secondary cornice and a terra cotta decorative cornice contrasting with the dark red pressed brick wall. Brick quoins accent building corners and brick pilasters. The west elevation of the building has no architectural embellishments. From this elevation, it is evident that the building is U-shaped with north and south wings. The roof has two large metal signs bearing the name of the hotel. These signs are early or original. The sign on the southeast corner has lost most of its letters as well as four spotlights that once lit the sign at night. The building was once flanked by a row of small one-story frame stores on the west side and a large three-story frame rooming house on the north. These have since been removed, and a modern one-story precast stone insurance building has replaced the rooming houses. The Park Hotel has served the same function under the same name since it was established, and retains sufficient physical integrity to convey feeling and association with its period of historical significance as the premier hotel in the central commercial district in the early twentieth century.

4) 403 N. Front Street (Imagination Arts & Crafts), Contributing

The building that currently houses Imagination Arts & Crafts was constructed in 1908. It was a one-story wood frame building with an ornate bracketed wood cornice and typical store front with recessed entrance flanked by display windows. It housed the Elk Saloon and barber shop. In 1920 the Paris Cafe moved to this building from its previous location one lot to the east after a fire and renovated the interior. Sometime in the late 1920s or

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early 1930s, the exterior was remodeled. The decorative cornice was removed, the recessed entrance was modified, and blue, red, and black terra cotta tile was added to the facade on the kickplates and window trim. A west entrance with an Art Deco style metal awning and terra cotta tile was added. This entrance was used as a taxi stand.

The current building is a one-story, flat-roofed wood frame commercial structure (107' x 25') with a concrete and stone foundation. The exterior walls are covered with a slate-blue painted stucco. Blue, red, and black terra cotta tile accents the kickplates and is used as trim around the display windows on the facade. The entrance is a glass and aluminum door centered in the south elevation. The west entrance still has the Art Deco style aluminum or steel awning with terra cotta tile trim around the door. This entrance has been sealed over and is no longer in use. Otherwise, the exterior of the building is unadorned and looks much the same as it did in the 1940s. While no longer original, the architectural detailing represents commercial building trends in Rock Springs during this time period.

5) 407 N. Front Street (The Antique Mall), Contributing

The building that currently houses the Antique Mall was originally a one-story structure that housed three businesses and was constructed in about 1911. From west to east there was a moving picture theater, a confectionary store, and a narrow millinery shop. When constructed, the exterior walls except for the facade were covered with pressed metal siding. In 1914, a wood frame second story was added to the east portion of the building, then known as the Danton Building. At that time, the lower story contained the Moonlight Candy Kitchen, and the remaining portion was leased to Thurmond's Toggery. After the second story was added to the east portion, there were in effect two buildings. The one-story and two-story portion each had decorative bracketed cornices. In the late 1910s, the moving picture theater became the Paris Cafe. Fire broke out in the Paris Cafe and Thurmond's Toggery on December 26, 1919. The Paris Cafe then moved one building west to the Elk Saloon and remodeled it. Thurmond's Toggery was still in the same location in 1925. A.W. Travelute Clothing succeeded Thurmond's. The Toastmaster Cafe was also located here in the one-story portion. By 1937, F.W. Woolworth's occupied the two-story building, and Cohen's Store For Men occupied the one-story building in the 1940s. By the 1940s, a brick facade was added and the separate decorative cornices removed, effectively joining the two buildings as they appear today.

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The current building is a combined one and two-story wood frame structure with a flat roof and rests on a concrete foundation with a full basement. A wood frame second story was added to the east half in 1914. The east and west portions each had a separate decorative cornice. Sometime in the 1930s, the facades were covered with brick and joined. The two portions were combined to house a F.W. Woolworth Department store. There are two recessed entrances with double leaf doors flanked by display windows with marble kickplates. The second-story portion has three sets of three windows with one over one-light double-hung units separated in the middle by a one-light fixed window. There is a white terra cotta cornice and a brick parapet capped with concrete. The Woolworth name is also imbedded in the sidewalk at the entrance. While not original, the exterior of the building has not been significantly altered since the 1930s-era renovation. It also retains its 1914 one-and two-story proportions.

6) 421 N. Front Street (Warehouse Video), Contributing

The building that currently houses Warehouse Video is a two-story brick structure (60' x 38') with a flat roof. It was constructed in 1909 and was originally a wood frame two-story structure. It served as a drug store. In 1929, the building was radically remodeled with a brick facade and solid masonry walls and housed the J.C. Penney store, supposedly the second outlet in what became a national chain.

The current building rests on a concrete foundation with a full basement. The facade or south elevation is constructed with brick. The remaining walls are of solid masonry construction. The facade has a concrete-capped stepped parapet and three rectangular-shaped areas with decorative brickwork. The second story windows are one over one-light double-hung units. The first story has two recessed entrances with plate glass display windows in aluminum frames. The kickplates and trim areas are covered with decorative stone. The clerestory area has been modified with a ribbed aluminum signboard extending the width of the building and hiding the original signboard area. However, the signboard area in the clerestory could be easily removed. Two additions have been added to the rear of the building.

7) 431 N. Front Street (New Life Ministries), Contributing

The building that currently houses the New Life Ministries is a one-story frame falsefront (78' x 23'6") with a gable roof. The building was

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constructed sometime prior to 1890 and served as a saloon. In about 1899, Rudolph Ebeling established the Crystal Meat Market here, and the building was long used as a butcher shop. Sometime after 1929, the clapboard siding on the facade was covered with black and white ceramic tile creating an interesting diamond pattern mosaic.

The current building rests on a concrete foundation and has a full basement. The walls are covered with pressed metal siding except for the facade. The recessed entrance has a transom and is flanked by two large plate glass display windows. The original facade did not have a recessed entrance and the display windows were smaller. Otherwise, the building is similar in form, scale, and fabric and therefore retains feeling and association with its period of historical significance as a butcher shop.

8) 443 N. Front Street (Serendipity Books & Gifts), Contributing

The building that currently houses Serendipity Books & Gifts represents Late Victorian Italianate architecture and is typical of a single storefront commercial building of the late nineteenth century. It was constructed sometime prior to 1890 and is one of the few remaining nineteenth century wood frame buildings in the commercial district that retains physical integrity. It first served as a saloon and bottle works, then a bicycle and harness shop, and by the early twentieth century, it had become a hardware shop.

The current building is a one-story wood frame falsefront (96' x 21') with a gable roof covered with rolled roofing. The building rests on a stone foundation with a small cellar area. The facade has a recessed single entrance flanked by large plate glass display windows and stucco kickplates. The clerestory is composed of square black tiles. There is a plain wood secondary cornice and a decorative wood cornice with brackets and dentils. The exterior walls are covered with shiplap siding painted a salmon pink color. A second wood frame one-story addition was built onto the rear or north elevation of the building between 1903 and 1912. This addition has a gable roof covered with wood shingles. A third cement block addition was added to the north elevation at an unknown date, so that there are a total of three north-south segments forming the overall structure; however, the modifications cannot be seen from North Front Street.

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9) 447 N. Front Street (Kelley's Shoes), Noncontributing

The building that currently houses Kelley's Shoes is a one-story wood frame commercial structure (142' x 24.5') with a gable roof covered with wood shingles. It rests on a stone foundation with a small cellar. There was a shorter wood frame building used as a saloon at this location as early as 1890. By 1912, the building housed a stationery and confectionary store. It continued to serve as a candy store through the 1940s. In 1972, the building received an addition to the north elevation and the facade was remodeled as it now appears. The facade or south elevation has a single recessed entrance flanked by plate glass display windows in aluminum frames. The building has brick kickplates. The remainder of the facade is composed of ribbed aluminum with large metal letters spelling "Kelley's Shoes." There is also a suspended aluminum awning over the entrance. These modifications have radically altered the original Late Victorian Italianate character of the building with its falsefront and ornate cornice. The building no longer resembles the original structure in form or fabric.

10) 453 N. Front Street (Toastmaster Bar), Noncontributing

The building that currently houses the Toastmaster Bar is a one-story wood frame structure (142' x 23') with a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. It rests on a concrete foundation with a basement. The building was constructed sometime prior to 1890 and originally housed a saloon. By 1894, it housed a restaurant and an addition had been built onto the rear or north elevation. William Griffiths ran the Senate Saloon at this location throughout the early twentieth century and it later served as a restaurant. By the late 1940s, the Toastmaster Bar was located there.

The exterior walls of the current building are covered with novelty siding except for a brick addition on the rear. The building was remodeled in 1946, and the facade was changed radically, removing the decorative cornice and pressed metal siding. The facade is now composed of a plastic and aluminum material covering the old parapet area. There are two entrances with aluminum and glass doors. The intervening area has two small plate glass windows with an intervening area of glass bricks. There is brickwork on the lower wall between the entrances. It appears that the building has been remodeled again since 1946. As a result, the building has poor physical and architectural integrity.

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11) 487 N. Front St. (Callas Realty/Front Street News), Contributing

The building that currently houses Callas Realty and Front Street News is a coursed ashlar, two-story, flat-roofed and gambrel-roofed commercial building (68' x 52') located at the northwest corner of North Front Street and J Street. This Late Victorian Italianate building is typical of a corner commercial building of the late nineteenth century. It was originally a wood frame building constructed in 1889 by H.H. Edgar and housed the first opera house in Rock Springs. It burned in December 1894 and was reconstructed on the site. The United Mine Workers of America obtained the building in 1911 and renamed it the Union Opera House. It also bore the legend "Labor Temple, 1914" on the parapet. The rear portion of the building, a somewhat lower two-story stone addition containing stage and screen, has been removed.

The current building has a canted entrance and rests on a sandstone block foundation with a full basement. Although the roof appears flat due to the stone-capped parapet, the view from the north elevation reveals at least a partial gambrel roof covered with rolled roofing. Unaltered windows on the second floor are evenly spaced and are typically one over one-light double-hung units set in wood frames. There is a second separate fixed one-light window located directly above each bay. A second-story canted window has an arched fixed window set above the double-hung unit with radiating voussoirs. One of the windows in the east elevation was altered at an unknown date to provide an outside entrance to the second story via a metal staircase that has been removed except for a landing with rail, and two of the street-level windows on the east elevation have been covered over. There is a secondary stone cornice above the display window and street entrance area. The original building had a series of multi-paned clerestory panels that have been recently uncovered and restored. The display windows and entrances at street level have been replaced and altered and have aluminum frames. However, they are generally located in the same positions and have similar dimensions. The legend "Union Temple 1914" has been removed from the top of the parapet on the canted corner of the building. The building retains its essential original form, scale, and fabric and therefore retains feeling and association with its period of historical significance as a theater and union hall.

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12) 110 J Street (James and James Attorneys), Noncontributing

The building that currently houses James and James Attorneys is a one-story wood frame falsefront with a gable roof. Portions of the building were constructed prior to 1890 with a dwelling in the rear. By 1903, it served as a drug store and by 1912 it was a restaurant. Between 1920 and 1925, the building was either rebuilt or received a brick facade with a recessed entrance and clerestory. It became the Quaker Cash and Carry Store owned by H.J. Boice, who also ran the next business to the west, a grocery store and bakery.

The current building has a precast stone facade and a wood shingle awning that extends east over the next business. It has double leaf glass and aluminum doors in a recessed entrance and modern display windows. The old South Pass Saloon and Boice's Grocery and Bakery have been torn down to create a parking lot. A new entrance with a wood shingle awning has been built into the west elevation and is used by James and James Attorneys at 110 J Street. It appears that the storefront on North Front Street is vacant. The building has poor physical and architectural integrity due to extensive modifications and does not retain feeling and association with its period of historical significance as a grocery store and bakery.

13) 515 N. Front St. (I.O.O.F./Fanelli Fine Furniture), Contributing

This Late Victorian Italianate building was constructed in about 1909 and housed the Chicago Meat Market. In 1912, the second story was remodeled and a side entrance was added for the I.O.O.F. Hall. The Oddfellows have occupied the second floor since that time. The second story of the building remains original, but the first story facade has been remodeled.

The current building is a two-story wood frame falsefront commercial structure (74' x 41') with a gable roof. It rests on a stone foundation with a partial basement. The exterior walls are covered with stucco, and there is a bracketed decorative cornice. The regularly-spaced pedimented windows are two over one-light double-hung units with wood frames. The original Oddfellows logo is still located between the second story windows and the cornice. There is a separate pedimented entrance on the east elevation for the IOOF facilities on the second floor. The street level has a large wood shingle awning built over the old clerestory area that extends the width of the building. There is one recessed entrance flanked by large plate glass

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display windows with small mosaic tile kickplates. The IOOF entrance has double leaf metal doors that replaced the original French doors. A large addition was built onto the rear of the building (north elevation) in 1943. Despite remodeling, the building still retains its essential original form, scale, and fabric and therefore has feeling and association with its period of historical significance as a meat market and Oddfellows Hall.

14) 527 N. Front Street (Fanelli Sleep Shop), Contributing

This building is a one-story wood frame commercial structure (75' x 20'6") that has a gable roof and rests on a stone foundation. It was constructed sometime prior to 1890 and served as a tin and hardware store throughout the 1890s, a photograph gallery in 1903, and a saloon by 1912. By the 1920s, it had become a cafe. Sometime in the 1930s, the facade or south elevation of the building was modified by lowering the falsefront and covering the original shiplap siding with stucco. Purple ceramic tile was used to cover the kickplates and for trim. The clerestory and display windows were slightly modified and the recessed entrance was retained. The exterior renovation is typical of the Art Deco influence on commercial buildings in the 1930s and 1940s, and the building has not received any other modifications since the 1930s.

15) 531 North Front Street (Law Offices), Noncontributing

The building that currently houses Kaumo Law Offices is a two-story coursed ashlar falsefront (65' x 28') that rests on a stone foundation with a full basement. This Late Victorian Italianate building was constructed sometime prior to 1890 and is characteristic of the earliest stone commercial buildings constructed in Rock Springs from local quarries, of which there are only a few remaining examples today. The earliest occupants cannot definitely be determined, but by 1899 the building housed the Golden Rule Mercantile Company. The Golden Rule stores became a western chain that was purchased by J.C. Penney. In the late 1920s, the outlet was moved to a large store at 421 North Front Street, and the building housed a dry goods concern.

The current building has a one-story addition with a shed roof in the rear or north elevation. The facade or south elevation was remodeled in 1983. The street level was covered with brick, and the entrance was moved to the left or west where a display window was formerly located. Twin leaf wooden doors are now in place. There is a plate glass display window on the east side of

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the facade. There is also a wood frame awning covered with wood shingles. The second story and falsefront were covered with clapboard siding. The second story windows are essentially the same except that wooden shutters were added. The remodeling of the facade has substantially altered the physical and architectural integrity of the building so that it is considered to be a noncontributing element to the district.

16) 535 N. Front Street (Fanelli Appliance Warehouse), Noncontributing

This building is a one-story wood frame structure (61'6" x 26') with a gable roof covered with composition shingles. It rests on a stone foundation with a full basement. The building was constructed between 1890 and 1894. It first housed a barber and tailor, then became the Viaduct Saloon in 1903. Except for the Prohibition period, it operated continuously as a saloon. The building was altered in 1947. The decorative cornice was removed, and street level windows and doors were altered. The facade has since been covered with aluminum siding. It has two large plate glass display windows, a wood and glass door in the west side, and a small metal awning. The clerestory has been filled in and the remaining area to the parapet has been covered with aluminum siding. There is a signboard with the business name centered above the clerestory. The various exterior modifications have compromised the physical and architectural integrity of the building.

17) 545 N. Front Street (Rex Hotel/Village Square), Contributing

This building is a two-story concrete structure (140' x 52') with a brick facade and a flat roof. It rests on a concrete foundation with a full basement. The building was constructed in 1909 by A.T. Chalice and housed a jewelry and candy store. The rear portion contained the 250-seat Lyric Theater, later called the Oracle. In 1924, the Rex Amusement Company acquired the building and converted the old Oracle theater into a modern facility with 600 seats, elaborate fresco and mural decorations, and an electric sign that still hangs from the building. The upper story served as the Rex Hotel. The Rex Optical and Jewelry Company moved into the building in 1926. The company had a prominent, distinctive sign with a pair of eye glasses placed on the roof of the building. The building later housed the J.J. Newberry and Company 5 and 10 Cent Store.

The building was remodeled in 1941, probably to accommodate the J.J. Newberry store. The original building had a large arched central entrance and a flat

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metal suspended awning extending to the curb. The street level was remodeled as it appears today with a double storefront and two recessed entrances flanked by display windows with granite kickplates. There is a third entrance on the east end for second floor access. An ironfront is partially evident on the facade. The awning was either modified or replaced with a shorter suspended unit. The 1924 neon sign was retained and the word "Theatre" changed to "Hotel." The second story has two triple and one double window unit evenly spaced with one over one-light double-hung units. Within each grouping, engaged columns separate the double-hung windows. There is a terra cotta decorative cornice still in place. Everything above the street level appears to be original. The old signboard above the awning still reads "J.J. Newberry Co. 5-10-25 Cent Store" in gilt letters. Therefore, although the street level of the facade was changed in 1941, the building retains its essential form, scale, and fabric and even retains original architectural elements in the second story. The 1924 neon sign is also an interesting feature.

18) 553 N. Front Street/19 K Street (Fanelli Music, Appliance & Furniture/Rushmore Furniture Company), Contributing

This building is a large two-story brick structure with a flat roof and parapet with decorative brickwork. The building rests on a concrete foundation with basement. It occupies the entire east side of Block 3 on North Front and K Streets. It was constructed in 1923 and first served as a hardware store. It is a typical early twentieth century commercial structure with two main corner entrances. There is an interesting cornice capped with red tile contrasting with light terra cotta detailing below. The second story windows consist of regularly-spaced, 9-light windows with metal frames. There is a suspended metal awning extending completely around the exposed sides of the building. The street level has two main entrances at the southeast and northeast corners. There are also secondary recessed entrances. The intervening space consists of large plate glass display windows with black glazed ceramic tiles covering kickplates and trim. Green tile was used on the north side of the building. The building has not received any significant exterior modifications since it was constructed.

19) South Main Street (Union Pacific Railroad Depot), Contributing

The Union Pacific Railroad Depot is a one-story brick building (131'3" x 24'2") with a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The roof was

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originally covered with slate. It was constructed in 1900 and replaced an earlier wood frame depot. It was designed by the Chief Engineers' Office of the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha. It appears that it was constructed in a reverse layout of the plans, and the placement of some of the windows and entrances were slightly changed from the plans. The building was set in a large landscaped area with lawn, shrubs, and trees. Although plain and functional in appearance, the main entrance has elements of the Neo-Classic architectural style. Records show that the depot was altered in 1922 and 1941, but the alterations may have been limited to the interior, since the exterior remains much the same as when built.

The current building retains regularly spaced carved wooden brackets under the eaves. The soffit consists of narrow wood paneling. The building rests on a rock-faced stone foundation. There is a bay window built onto the east elevation with three round arched windows with keystones, springers, and sills. The south elevation or facade has an enclosed vestibule with a pedimented main entrance with a decorative tympanum and brick pilasters. The entrance consists of double wooden doors. The doors are flanked by decorative oculus windows above rectangular one over one-light double-hung windows. There is a white stone belt or string course separating the two and running entirely around the vestibule. Windows throughout the remainder of the building are arched with brick keystones and white stone sills contrasting with the dark bricks. The trackside elevation has a Palladian-type window above the entry and a Flemish gable with a stone-capped parapet. The central location of the depot and its connection with the Union Pacific Railroad make it a key contributing member of the central business district.

20) Northeast corner of South Main & E Streets (Union Pacific Warehouse/Freight Station), Contributing

This early twentieth century industrial building was constructed in 1917-18 by the Union Pacific Railroad to replace an earlier freight station. It was designed by the Office of the Chief Engineer, Omaha. It is an elongated rectangular building (234' x 32') with a two-story office area on the west end and a one-story freight storage area with loading docks on the east. The walls are constructed with red brick and reinforced concrete with a gently sloped (nearly flat) gable roof of slab concrete. Windows consist of 25-light fixed units with metal frames. The window openings have brick sills and the common lintel is a horizontal concrete structural member. The office portion has two entrances with wooden doors with 12-light transoms. There is

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a terra cotta cornice on the office portion and a bracketed cornice extending the length of the one-story warehouse portion. There are regularly-spaced loading bays with metal overhead doors. Many of the bays have been sealed over with cement blocks. There are regularly-spaced triple sets of 10-light wire-meshed windows located above the doors. There is a single overhead garage door in the east elevation. The north elevation is adjacent to a railroad siding and also has a concrete loading dock and bays. The building was retired by the railroad in 1975 and has been leased since that time. It retains its original form, scale, and fabric and therefore has strong feeling and association with its period of historical significance.

21) 402 South Main Street/139 C Street (Wood'N Stuff/Dance Patch/Arnoldi's Tadoo), Noncontributing

This building is a two-story wood frame structure (135' x 25') with a flat roof and rests on a concrete foundation. The building extends through the block to Broadway and houses businesses fronting on South Main Street and C Street. It was originally constructed sometime between 1895 and 1903. By 1903, there was a small wood frame saloon at this location known as the Eagle Bar. In 1912, Otto Schnauber's Pacific Meat Market was built onto the south end of the building facing Broadway. The small wood frame saloon was also enlarged to fill the remainder of the lot to C Street. From the 1920s through the 1940s, the building housed a number of different businesses including a Walgreen's store.

The street level of the current building has brick siding on south Main Street and aluminum siding on Broadway. The brick siding extends along the west elevation of C Street. There are plate glass display windows with aluminum frames and aluminum and glass doors. The business at 139 C Street has a door that is surrounded with glass bricks. There is a corrugated plastic signboard area extending around the building above the windows and doors. The second story is covered with light green aluminum siding. Windows are two over two-light double-hung units with wood frames. There is an old drug store sign on the roof facing South Main Street.

The exterior of the building has been radically modified by removing the falsefront and covering the exterior with aluminum siding and brick siding. The Victorian Italiante facade is gone, and the building no longer bears any resemblance to the original.

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22) 410 South Main Street (Bi-Rite Drugs/A Touch of Class/Personal Tax Service), Contributing

This building is a two-story brick and stone structure (135' x 63') with a flat roof and rests on a concrete foundation with a full basement. Constructed in the 1870s for Tim Kinney & Company, it is one of the earliest remaining buildings in Rock Springs. The building extends through the block from north to south and also fronts on Broadway, so that the structure has two facades. The Bi-Rite pharmacy occupies a portion of the north half and all of the south half of the building with an address of 409 Broadway. The south half appears to be a later brick addition to the building. The South Main Street facade is faced with white glazed bricks, a result of remodeling sometime in the 1920s, and has a strong Neo-Classical appearance. The remaining walls of the building are constructed with stone. The street level has a recessed main entrance with fluted stone columns on either side with a decorative shelf or entablature. The remainder of the street level facade is comprised of plate glass display windows and a secondary recessed entrance to one of the first floor stores.

The second story is composed of regularly-spaced rectangular triple windows with transoms and metal sash and frames. There is a secondary stone cornice with dentil work and a simple stone cornice. The brick parapet is capped with concrete. The building formerly had a metal letter sign over the parapet reading "Stockgrowers Merc. Co." The south facade on Broadway has similar proportions and is faced with alternating dark and light brown brick with a concrete capped parapet and a narrow, decorative cement cornice. Second story windows are composed of six regularly-spaced rectangular six-light units above a metal awning with a Bi-Rite signboard. The street level consists of recessed entrances and flanking display windows. There is an entranceway immediately west of Bi-Rite at 409 Broadway for Suite A, which houses the law firm of Greenhalgh, Bussart, West and Rossetti. The entranceway utilizes an empty portion of the lot in this area. The law offices are housed in the Bi-Rite Building. The current building more closely reflects the 1920s-1930s modifications rather than its 1870s appearance, but it has not received any extensive exterior changes since that time period.

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23) 416-420 South Main Street (New Studio Camera Shop), Contributing

This building is an L-shaped one-story wood frame double storefront (135' x 42') with a flat roof. It rests on a concrete foundation and has a full basement. The building was originally two wood frame commercial falsefronts built sometime prior to 1890, and housed a furniture store and a grocery, hardware, and crockery store. Sometime in the early 1920s, the store was remodeled and joined together with a brick facade with two recessed entrances.

The current building has three recessed entrances, two with yellow and gray glazed tile kickplates and one with brick kickplates. The entrances are flanked by glass display windows. The clerestory has been covered. Decorative brick and terra cotta have been used as trim and to accent the area above the clerestory. The building has a concrete-capped parapet. There is one signboard shaped like a film roll above the parapet and a second signboard for sidewalk viewing above the east entrance. Today, the building reflects the 1920s modifications and has not been changed other than covering the clerestory area. The interior still retains the early pressed metal ceiling.

24) 422 South Main Street (U.S. Post Office, Contract Station No. 1), Noncontributing

The building that currently houses the U.S. Post Office is a coursed, ashlar two-story, flat-roofed structure with a brick facade. It rests on a stone foundation. It was constructed sometime prior to 1890 and housed a general store. J.P. McDermott's occupied the building as early as 1896 and continued to operate at this location through the early 1930s. The store was remodeled in 1913 with plate glass windows and doors. The building retained its decorative bracketed cornice and falsefront.

The current building has large plate glass windows with aluminum frames and aluminum and glass doors. The kickplate area is covered with small mosaic tiles and the remainder of the facade is faced with brick. The clerestory, signboard area and the remainder of what was once the falsefront has been covered with dark vertical wood siding bearing the letters "U.S. Post Office." These and other modifications took place during remodeling in 1952 and 1965 so that today the building bears little resemblance to its original appearance. Although it is one of the earliest remaining commercial stone

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buildings, it has poor physical and architectural integrity. It no longer retains original form, scale or fabric and is not consistent with any of the architecture and building proportions in this block.

25) 430 S. Main Street (Country Cottage/Plaza Hotel/Party Supplies),
Contributing

This building is a three-story brick structure (135' x 25') with a flat roof and a concrete foundation with a full basement. It was originally a two-story stone building constructed prior to 1890. It served as a drug store in 1890 but by 1903 housed the Navy Saloon. It continued to serve as a saloon or billiard hall until the mid-1920s. At that time, the building was partially reconstructed with brick and a third story was added. The upper portion of the building was then known as the Yellowstone Hotel. In the mid-1930s, the Yellowstone Hotel became the Plaza Hotel with a new proprietor. Montgomery Ward and Company moved into the first floor at about the same time.

It is unclear if any of the original stone walls still remain. The building continues through the block from north to south and also fronts on Broadway. The street level on the north facade has been remodeled with plate glass display windows and glass and aluminum doors. There is a plastic signboard in the clerestory area. The second and third floors remain original. Decorative brick work and a rounded parapet capped with concrete tops the building. Windows are regularly spaced three over one-light double-hung units with wood frames, brick sills, and concrete lintels. The building retains a neon sign with the words "Plaza Hotel," which probably dates from the mid-1930s. A larger sign with the same logo is still located on the roof. The south facade fronting on Broadway is nearly identical but with a smaller signboard area and a recessed entrance, and there is a separate entrance to the upper floors. A painted Montgomery Ward sign is still visible on the upper west elevation of the building. This building has a long and colorful history and now appears much as it did when it was renovated in the mid-1920s. It therefore retains strong feeling and association with this portion of its history as a hotel and as a Montgomery Ward store.

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26) 432 South Main Street (Vacant), Noncontributing

This building is a one-story wood frame structure with a cast concrete and stone panel facade. It has a flat roof and a falsefront. The building was constructed in about 1889 and was a one-story frame falsefront with a decorative cornice. William H. O'Donnell opened the Central Meat Market here in about 1890. Lula Parker Betenson's biography of her brother Robert Leroy Parker (Butch Cassidy) claims that he may have received his nickname while working in this meat market. It served as a meat market under various owners until the Crocker Jewelry Store opened in December 1912. John Bean Jewelry followed in the early 1940s. Bean installed handbuilt mahogany shelves and a safe. The exterior of the building was extensively remodeled in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The street level has two large display windows and a recessed entrance accented by a concrete arch. The interior retains the mahogany shelves and the original or early tin ceiling.

The extensive modifications to the exterior of the building have radically altered the original Late Victorian Italianate architecture. Therefore, although the location may be significant for its association with Butch Cassidy, it no longer retains sufficient physical or architectural integrity to convey feeling and association with its period of historical significance and is considered to be a noncontributing element to the district.

27) 436 South Main Street (Copier and Supply Company, Inc.), Noncontributing

The building that currently houses the Copier and Supply Company, Incorporated, is a two-story wood frame structure (78' x 25') with a gable roof covered with wood shingles. It was constructed sometime prior to 1890 and was a commercial falsefront with clapboard siding and cornice. The building housed a variety of businesses, including a barber shop, a candy store, a drug store, and a saloon. During the 1910s and 1920s, it generally housed a restaurant. By the late 1930s, it housed a photo studio. It is not known when the remodeling of the facade to its present condition occurred or if it was carried out in phases.

The most prominent feature of the facade is a mock tile roof in the cornice area. The second story is finished in brown stucco with pilasters that divide the one over one-light double-hung windows. The street level is finished in white rectangular terra cotta tiles. There is a recessed entrance to the street level and a second entrance for access to the second

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story. Plate glass display windows separate the two entrances. Terra cotta tile covers the kickplate area as well as the recessed entranceway and all trim. The extensive remodeling of the facade has compromised the physical and architectural integrity of the building, and it is considered to be a noncontributing element to the district.

28) 440 South Main Street (State Farm Insurance), Contributing

This building is a two-story brick and stone structure with a flat roof and rests on a stone foundation. It was constructed in 1892 by Pat Hynes, a local building contractor. The building actually has brick walls with a rock-faced ashlar facade. In the early twentieth century it housed the Rock Springs Pharmacy. The building was remodeled in 1924 in preparation for a F.W. Woolworth store. A new first-story front was installed along with new floors, partitions, and modern fixtures at a cost of \$6,000 to \$8,000. Woolworths moved out in the early 1930s, and the Sweetbriar Shops, Inc. was located here by 1937. The first-floor facade was remodeled again sometime after Woolworths moved out.

The current building has plate glass display windows and a single entrance with a glass and aluminum door. Trim consists of precast stone or concrete panels and terra cotta tile squares in the clerestory area that have been painted over. The second story retains the fine stone work. Decorative stone is used to accent the lintels and sills. There is a set of three windows centered under a gable-roofed stone dormer with two small windows. The lower windows are one over one-light double-hung units with transom windows above. The center window is larger and has a decorative segmented arch with radiating voussoirs. A fourth second-story one over one-light double-hung window with transom is isolated and centered under a pyramidal roof covered with tiles. There is also a coffered cornice extending around the facade. Although the street level facade has been remodeled within the last thirty years, the second story and roofline remain intact. This portion of the building is so distinctive that it is one of the most architecturally interesting buildings in the district and therefore still retains feeling and association with its period of historical significance.

29) 450 South Main Street (Vacant), Noncontributing

This building is a two-story coursed ashlar building (25' x 40'), but it appears that it has been faced with bricks that have been stuccoed over on

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the facade and east elevation. It is possible that the brick facing is original. The building was constructed in 1888 and housed the First National Bank of Rock Springs, the first bank to be organized in Rock Springs. It was originally a two-story stone building with a decorative cornice and a stepped parapet. The upper portion of the facade may have been covered with clapboard siding, although it is difficult to tell from existing photographs. The building was rather plain and unadorned except for a pyramidal roof designed to resemble a turret on the west side of the building with three small arched windows directly below in the falsefront. There were four large rectangular-shaped second story windows extending across the facade. The details of the historic appearance of the street level are unavailable.

On the current building, the pyramidal roof and cornice have been removed and the three decorative windows have been covered over. The four second story windows have been greatly scaled down in size. The street level has been remodeled. The clerestory has been screened in and an aluminum secondary cornice extends around the exposed elevations of the building. There are brick pilasters separating large plate glass display windows. There are two glass and wood doors with transoms for the first floor and a third glass and wood door leading to the second story. Extensive remodeling has compromised the physical and architectural integrity of the building, and it is considered to be a noncontributing element to the district.

30) 502 South Main Street (Security Bank Building), Contributing

This building is currently enrolled in the National Register of Historic Places. It is a three-story building (140' x 40') with reinforced concrete walls faced with glazed architectural terra cotta tiles on three elevations. The east elevation is composed of brick set in stretcher bond. The building extends through the block and also fronts on Broadway. It was constructed in 1919 to house the First National Bank of Rock Springs and was designed by Walter J. Cooper of Salt Lake City and D.D. Spani, a prominent Rock Springs architect.

Decorative wall treatments include a plinth on the three main facades and terra cotta panels at the third story level. There is also a belt course at the height of the first floor. The sloping roof is obscured by a parapet with entablature on three sides. On the fourth side the roof meets the wall and the eaves are closed. There is also a single exterior stack chimney. Roof trim features include a decorated pediment on the north facade.

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The main windows are in a flat opening with decorated trim for a head. This same motif continues for the side surrounds. The fixed windows are two sashed with a mullion and a large six-light transom. The upper story windows are also in a flat opening but have a plain head and side surrounds. There is a lugsill present on the upper windows. Each upper story window has fixed single light that is flanked by two double-hung sidelights. Above this arrangement is a three-light transom.

The main door is centrally located in the north elevation and is in a flat opening. The head is a double curved pediment. The side surrounds are plain. The architrave has engaged columns of the same design as the window side surrounds with an embrasure present. The main door is not original, but consists of two single panel doors in aluminum frames. The original doors were double leaf, single panels in a wood frame. These doors were removed in 1969 during remodeling.

The only exterior modifications to the building have taken place on the southwest corner of the first floor. The storefront windows were removed and drive-in facilities were installed. Although this change has altered the facade in the rear, this portion of the building is restorable. The first floor and mezzanine were used for banking. Two stores were located in the rear of the building. The upper floors were divided into thirty-four rooms.

31) 504 South Main Street (Total Exposure Tanning and Hair Salon),
Noncontributing

This building is a one-story wood frame, gable-roofed commercial falsefront. It was constructed prior to 1890 and served as a saloon and billiard hall throughout the 1890s and early twentieth century to about 1927. The original building was a simple Late Victorian falsefront with clapboard siding, a decorative cornice, and a recessed entrance with display windows and kickplates.

The present building retains the original form and scale, but the facade has been totally remodeled. The cornice has been removed, and the entire falsefront area has been covered with wood and aluminum to create a light-colored signboard contrasting with a dark wood background. This also covers the original clerestory area. New plate glass display windows have been added as well as two aluminum and glass doors. A brick face has been added to the kickplate area. These substantial exterior changes have occurred in

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one or more stages during the last thirty years. The building no longer resembles its original or early counterpart; therefore, it retains little physical or architectural integrity with its period of historical significance.

32) 510 South Main Street (Rock Springs Chiropractic Health Center),
Noncontributing

This building is a one-story cement block and brick flat-roofed structure (25' x 65') that was constructed in 1958 with modifications in 1972. The building rests on a concrete foundation and has cement block walls with a brick facing on the facade or north elevation. It has a single recessed entrance and two rectangular-shaped sealed plate glass windows in the facade. It has a segmented red metal cornice running the entire width of the building above the windows and entrance. There is a semi-circular signboard centered in the cornice with the name of the chiropractic clinic and chiropractor.

This property is less than fifty years of age and has no historical or architectural significance and is therefore considered a noncontributing element to the district.

33) 514 South Main Street (Moonglade Gifts & Baskets), Contributing

The building is a two-story wood frame commercial falsefront (25' x 60') with a gable roof with tarpaper covering wood shingles and a recessed entrance and flanking display windows. It rests on a stone foundation and has a full basement. This Late Victorian building was constructed sometime prior to 1890 and is one of the few remaining intact examples of early wood frame architecture in the district. The first floor served as a saloon and the second floor was a meeting hall for the Tyrolean contingent. It was known as the Fountain Club and was often used for community dances. The building had a metal cornice and clapboard siding. The clapboard siding was covered over with pressed metal brick siding on the facade at an unknown time period. The original building had a typical nineteenth century storefront with a recessed entrance, transom, clerestory, display windows, and kickplates. There was a set of outside stairs leading to a second story on the west elevation that has been removed.

The current building is quite similar to the original structure. It retains the original cornice with metal urns and has pressed metal brick siding over

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the original clapboard. The name "Fountain Club" is painted above the second story windows. Part of the old logo can be seen on the clapboard where the metal siding has fallen away. The second story windows consist of one over one-light double-hung units with wood frames. The street level of the facade was remodeled in 1974 with a wood paneled signboard area covering the clerestory. The building retains the recessed entrance, but face brick has been applied to the kickplate area and new plate glass display windows have been added. There is also a wood panel door on the east side of the facade leading to the second floor.

Despite remodeling, the essence of the original building remains; therefore the building retains feeling and association with its period of historic significance as a saloon and meeting place from the 1880s through the 1930s.

34) 518 South Main Street (Vacant), Contributing

This two-story building is rectangular in shape (25' x 46') and is constructed with coursed red sandstone with a higher grade of gray sandstone used on the facade and tied in with quoining at the corners. The building has a flat roof covered with rolled roofing and rests on a stone foundation and has a full basement. It was constructed in 1892 and housed the Rock Springs National Bank, the second bank to be founded in Rock Springs. This Late Victorian Italianate building is the only remaining bank building from this time period in the district. The bank name and date of construction are inscribed on the upper facade. The bank moved in 1911, and the building was occupied by a succession of other businesses, including the White Front Beer Parlor by the 1940s.

The street level facade of the current building has been modified with vertical striped aluminum siding in the clerestory, and kickplates, modern display windows, and glass door with aluminum frames. The second story remains original with unaltered windows that are one over one-light double-hung units set in wood frames. Each window has a fixed transom located directly above each bay. There is an arched window on the second floor over which is inscribed the date "1892." The stone-capped parapet features twin spiraled decorative stone balls over the date of construction. The cornice is also finished with decorative stonework. There are two secondary cornices, one above the second story window level and one above the clerestory on the first story. The name "National Bank" is inscribed and centered on the facade above the central second story window. It is

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surrounded by decorative stonework resembling square shingles. At present the interior of the building is being renovated, and the floor and partition walls have been removed.

The building retains its essential original form, scale, and fabric and therefore has strong feeling and association with its period of historical significance as a late nineteenth-early twentieth century bank facility.

35) 515 Broadway (Robbins Insurance), Noncontributing

This building is a one-story flat-roofed structure (65' x 25') constructed with pumice block walls. It has a partial unfinished basement in the north half of the building. It was constructed in 1962. The facade or south elevation has a brown decorative stone facing. There is a wood covered cornice with a signboard area with the raised white letters of the business name. There is a single off-center entrance with a plate glass and aluminum door flanked by three plate glass windows of equal size set in aluminum frames. There is a plate glass transom above the door bearing the street address. The pumice block wall is visible along the east elevation as the adjoining lot is vacant and is used for parking.

The building is less than fifty years of age and has no historical or architectural significance and is therefore a noncontributing element to the district.

36) 511 Broadway (Vacant), Noncontributing

This building is a one-story flat-roofed structure (139' x 25') constructed with pumice block walls. It has a partial finished basement. Tax records indicate that it was constructed in 1968 but it is similar in proportion and materials to 515 Broadway and may have been constructed at the same time (1962). The facade is faced with red brick. There is a blue-painted wood panel door set at the east and west ends of the facade. The intervening area has a single plate glass window with a brick sill and a 15-light glass brick window of similar proportions with a brick sill. The area below each window is filled with a narrow rectangular decorative brick panel. There is a narrow aluminum secondary cornice creating a light-colored horizontal line above the doors and windows.

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The building is less than fifty years of age and has no historical or architectural significance and is therefore a noncontributing element to the district.

37) 505 Broadway (Rocky Mountain Service Bureau), Contributing

This building is a two-story brick structure (24' x 70') with a flat roof. It rests on a concrete foundation. It was constructed in 1941 and formerly housed Scott's Bakery and Sweetwater Federal Savings and Loan. The facade has been remodeled but was originally of brick with a recessed entrance and display windows. The facade has been covered with dark brown stucco and has five regularly-spaced eight-light pairs of windows in the second floor. The street level has a plate glass and aluminum door set at the east and west ends of the facade. The intervening area has three plate glass display windows set in aluminum frames. There is a small aluminum awning above the entrance and ribbed aluminum trim has been used around the windows and kickplate areas.

While the facade has been remodeled, this building retains its original scale, proportions, and materials. It also provides a two-story transition between the recent one-story buildings to the east and the taller First National Bank Building to the west. It is therefore considered a marginally contributing element to the district.

38) 455 Broadway/108 Bank Court (Mane Attraction Hair/Tanning Salon/Uptown), Noncontributing

This is a one-story, flat-roofed brick building resting on a concrete foundation with a partial basement. According to tax records, it was constructed in 1927. However, it has been extensively remodeled at some later date. The long eastern dimension of the building faces Bank Court, a narrow, short north-south running street that joins South Main Street and Broadway, with the First Security Bank on the east side of the street. This street was not created until the bank was constructed in 1919. There are three businesses in this building, although one is currently vacant. When this building was remodeled, a continuous fabricated cornice and signboard area was built that ties the businesses together. The street level is composed of plate glass windows with intervening regularly spaced light-colored brick pilasters. There are separate entrances for each business.

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Historically, this area of Broadway or 4th Street was composed of wood frame dwellings and vacant lots. No businesses are shown at this location in the directories during the 1920s and 1930s. Remodeling has compromised any architectural integrity the building once possessed, and it has no known historical significance. Therefore, it is considered a noncontributing element to the district.

39) 435 Broadway (Dr. Eugene Dowd, Optometrist), Noncontributing

This building is a one-story, flat-roofed brick building (59'6" x 30') with a concrete foundation and a full unfinished basement. It was constructed in 1940 and extensively remodeled in 1960. The facade is faced with narrow decorative stone blocks. A wood shingle cornice covers the upper half of the facade. There is a single entrance in the east end of the facade with a 3-light wood door and a transom. The door is flanked on the west with three plate glass windows set in aluminum frames. The east elevation is faced with bricks. This elevation reveals a three-step parapet, the only indication that the building is not modern. There is a vacant lot to the east of the building and the old three-story Plaza Hotel is on the west.

Although the building is reportedly over fifty years of age, the extensive 1960 remodeling is currently reflected in the exterior and is irreversible. The building has no known historical significance. Therefore it is considered to be a noncontributing element to the district.

40) 421 Broadway (Morgan Mining Environmental Consultants, Ltd.), Noncontributing

This building is a one-story, flat-roofed wood frame structure (129' x 34') with a full finished basement. It was constructed in 1948 and remodeled in 1952 and 1965. It formerly housed Mountain Fuel. The current building has a single entrance in the east end of the facade with a plate glass and aluminum door flanked on the west by three display windows with aluminum frames. The kickplate area is faced with decorative narrow stone blocks. The facade has a cornice composed of dark vertical wood strips. The west elevation of the building is exposed due to a vacant lot on the west. It has a stepped parapet and is covered with stucco. This is the only remaining indication that the building is not of recent construction.

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This building is less than fifty years of age and has no architectural or historical significance. It is therefore considered to be a noncontributing element to the district.

41) 417 Broadway (Faler Agency), Noncontributing

This building is a one-story, flat-roofed wood frame structure (65' x 20') resting on a concrete foundation with a full unfinished basement. The building was constructed in 1948 and has obviously been remodeled at a later date. The current appearance of the building includes a single entrance with a plate glass and aluminum door flanked on the west with a display window. Brick facing extends from the sidewalk to the parapet on the east and west ends of the facade. The upper half of the facade has a fabricated metal cornice and signboard area bearing the name of the business in large white letters. The east elevation of the building is exposed due to a vacant lot and is covered with ribbed metal siding. A stepped parapet is exposed on this elevation.

This building is less than fifty years of age and has no architectural or historical significance. It is therefore considered to be a noncontributing element to the district.

42) B Street and Broadway (Rock Springs City Hall), Contributing

The Rocks Springs City Hall, designed by M.D. Kern, is a noteworthy Romanesque Revival building constructed in 1894. The well executed stonework and the Romanesque Revival details, such as the round arches, octagonal tower, and pedimented dormers, make this building unusual in southwest Wyoming. The architect created interesting planes and surfaces on the structure by recessing ornamental techniques that accented the stonework. During 1992, this historic building was rehabilitated, and it is individually listed on the National Register.

The stonework is rock face ashlar laid in courses, and the same kind of sandstone was used in the tower, arches, turrets and other ornamental details. The structure is two stories high with a truncated hipped roof. The building is basically rectangular in shape and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

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The main entry is on the west side of the building through a recessed doorway. The facade is not flat, and the entry is connected to an advance pavilion on the southwest part of the facade that extends beyond the face of the city hall. A four-story tower constructed of stone on the lower stories and frame above is located at the northwest corner of the facade. Architecturally, the tower is the distinguishing feature of the building. The tower, originally constructed for clocks, is octagonal and has ventilation vents; above these vents were the clocks. The upper portion of the tower is highly decorative; a pyramidal roof with asphalt shingles is located above the clocks, and the tower is topped with a bellcast hipped cupola with a weather vane.

On the first floor the windows are double hung with a transom and each has a stone lintel located above. The entrances on the north and west sides have large round arches with radiating voussoirs. A two-story bay projects from the facade and is located next to the entrance for fire trucks. A large fire station entrance was located on the northeast corner of the building.

Windows on the upper story are varied; some of the windows have two transoms while others have semicircular arches that frame the transoms. The windows in the upper part of the tower are fixed. Three substantial pedimented wall dormers with round arches and radiating voussoirs provide additional texture to the building; each of the dormers has a fixed multi-light window. Miniature turrets flank each side of the dormers. A bellcast mansard roof cupola is located next to the north hip.

43) 211 B Street (F.O. Eagles Aerie 151), Contributing

This building is a large two-story brick warehouse extending through the block and fronting on B and C Streets. This early twentieth century commercial building was constructed in the early 1920s and was known as the Home Furniture Company Building. The east and west elevations were faced with dark red brick with light brown brick on the remaining elevations. The facades were nearly identical with four brick pilasters dividing the facades into three segments. There was a stepped brick parapet capped with concrete, and lighter-colored brick or terra cotta tiles were used to decorate the facade. The street level had plate glass display windows in each segment and a recessed entrance. There was a clerestory area with six-light windows in each segment. The second story had three sets of three one over one-light double-hung windows with small four-light windows or transoms above each.

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The current building is similar to the above description, except that the street level display windows, transom lights, and second story windows have been bricked in on the east and west elevations. The recessed entrance on the west elevation has been somewhat altered and serves as the main entrance of the Eagles Club. The east elevation has two doors, and the openings may have been altered to accommodate these doors. The legend "FOE 151" has been incorporated into the facades of the east and west elevations with light-colored bricks. The old painted signs for the Wyoming Automotive Company and the Home Furniture Company are still visible on the north and south elevations of the building.

Many original architectural features of this building have been recently modified, notably the bricking over of first and second story windows. However, the overall scale, proportions and materials remain the same, and it is still possible to determine the size and placement of original window bays. Therefore, the building is considered to be marginally contributing to the district.

44) 218 B Street (Masonic Temple), Contributing

This is a three-story light brown brick Neo-Classical building (42' x 100') with a flat roof resting on a concrete foundation. The building was constructed by the Rock Springs Masonic Lodge in 1912-13. It was designed by Baerressen Brothers of Denver and Cheyenne. The main entrance is in the east elevation and has a white terra cotta pediment and engaged round fluted columns. The words "Masonic Temple" are inscribed in the lintel. The second and third stories of the east elevation are divided by brick pilasters with plain terra cotta capitals and plinths. There is a white terra cotta cornice with dentils and a brick decorative frieze. A stone-capped parapet rises above the cornice. Windows in the first story are typically one over one-light double-hung units with wood frames. The upper story windows are grouped in pairs and are six over one-light double-hung units with wood frames.

The first floor was used as a ballroom, the second floor served as a lodge room, and the third floor contained a banquet room. The building has received few if any exterior modifications since construction and therefore retains feeling and association with its period of historical significance as a Masonic Temple.

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45) 210 B Street (J & J Boat Center), Contributing

This building is the former United States Post Office for Rock Springs. It is a one-story concrete and brick building (60' x 90') with a truncated hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The building rests on a concrete foundation with a raised basement. Construction of the building was begun in 1911 and finished in 1913. The building has a raised basement level, evenly-spaced semi-circular arched windows, and a cream-colored terra cotta projecting cornice with decorated frieze. The main entrance on the east elevation has engaged terra cotta pilasters topped by ornate stylized Corinthian capitols and a semi-circular arched pediment with detailed decorative work featuring an eagle in the tympanum. The double glass and aluminum door and covered transom represent later modifications. There is a secondary entrance on the north elevation of the building with double doors and plain surrounds. There is a later flat-roofed brick addition built onto the west elevation and a parking area. The north and east elevations face an unfenced lawn with planted trees.

The building has clean simple lines with sparse ornamentation. However, those embellishments that are present contain elements of the Neo-Classical style typical of post offices built between 1900 and 1920, all designed under the supervision of Henry Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the Treasury Department. It remained in use as the main post office until the late 1970s. The only significant modifications to the building have been the construction of a 34' x 64' flat-roofed brick addition on the west elevation. Otherwise, the building retains feeling and association with its period of historical significance as a post office. At the time of its construction, it was considered one of the most important and imposing edifices in Rock Springs by its citizens.

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8. Significance

The Downtown Rock Springs Historic District is significant under Criterion A as the original commercial heart of a major southwestern Wyoming city. From its humble origins as one of hundreds of late nineteenth century coal camps and railroad stations, it grew into a modern city with a diversified economy and multi-ethnic population that today serves a regional ranching, mining, and industrial community. Because of its advantageous location on the first transcontinental railroad and later on one of the first transcontinental auto highways (the Lincoln Highway), and because of its rich coal reserves that powered the Union Pacific steam engines, it has also played a key role in state, regional, and national transportation. Rock Springs also developed a rich ethnic heritage due to the many disparate nationalities who came to work in the mines and stayed to make Rock Springs their permanent home. This ethnicity is reflected in the commercial, social, and religious fabric of the town. Such ethnic diversity makes Rock Springs unique among Wyoming communities.

The District is also eligible under Criterion C, because it represents several different architectural styles and influences ranging from wood frame falsefronts to high style, architect-designed buildings. The buildings of the District reflect several identifiable building periods in the town's history and also represent the use of several different building materials, including locally quarried sandstone and locally fired bricks. The Downtown District furthermore features a unique layout that developed on both sides of multiple east-west railroad tracks and sidings, which effectively divided the commercial district into north and south sections well into the twentieth century.

The Origins of Rock Springs. The development of western mining towns is an important aspect of the frontier expansion in the nineteenth century. Towns preceded farmers and even ranchers in many of the mining regions of the west. Agricultural efforts often followed the opening of gold or silver mining districts to provide food for both people and work animals. According to historian Duane Smith, the result was that the urban frontier developed in a "leap frog fashion across the western landscape." The development of the western interior often came about not in waves of isolated individuals moving West, but in waves of settlers moving into established mining towns. As a result, towns emerged in the nineteenth century that began not as villages

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designed to serve farmers and ranchers, but urban centers built to serve the mines and railroads.

In the years 1867 and 1868, southern Wyoming's six major towns sprang up to serve the Union Pacific Railroad. Cheyenne, Laramie City, "Rollins Springs," Rock Springs, Green River City, and Evanston all can trace their roots to the railroad construction that is recognized as an epic part of western history. The building of the world's first transcontinental railroad in these pivotal years required thousands of men in an era of intensive manual labor. Women and men entered Wyoming to serve the needs of the railroad and thereby helped create a new cultural landscape tied to the railroad. With the exception of Rock Springs, all the towns that emerged throughout southern Wyoming in 1867 and 1868 were built solely to serve the railroad. Rock Springs also served the railroad, but as a mining community providing a source of coal. Yet all six towns shared a common beginning, emerging in a short time span in places that previously lacked permanent settlements. All developed astride the tracks of the Union Pacific railroad, like islands in a sea of sagebrush connected by wooden ties and metal rails. Along these rails steam locomotives carried a new generation of emigrants into the western interior, including coal miners from around the world to the Rock Springs mines. Throughout its history Rock Springs remained unique among the six original mainline towns.

Similar to other western towns, Rock Springs first served as a stage stop. In 1862 or 1863, the Overland Stage Company with Ben Holladay as the owner and manager built a stone stage station adjacent to the "Rock Springs." These springs surfaced on the northeast flanks of what is currently called College Hill. The water was described both as bitter and sulphurous; nonetheless, the springs flowed regularly and provided adequate water for travelers on the Overland Stage Line and westward bound emigrant following the Overland Trail.

The springs flowed east from a rock outcrop and ran into Killpecker Creek, which drained south to Bitter Creek. The distance from the "Rock Springs" to Bitter Creek was less than two miles. Located near the confluence of Bitter and Killpecker Creeks, the Overland Stage Station was seventeen miles from the Green River Stage Station. Bitter Creek ended its westward course at Green River; the Bitter Creek Valley served as a natural east-west corridor for Native Americans, trappers, westward bound emigrants, detachments of the

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U.S. Army, the Overland Stage coaches, and ultimately the Union Pacific Railroad. Rock Springs was established within this natural corridor.

In the mid-1860s, Archibald and Duncan Blair settled in the area and became the managers of the Rock Springs Stage Station. The great coal deposits that catapulted Rock Springs into prominence were first developed by the Blair brothers at prospects near Blairtown, one and one-half miles southwest of the site of Rock Springs. Blairtown consisted of a mine office, a store, and a restaurant. In 1869 after the railroad's arrival, a number of families lived in the area in tents or dugouts.

In 1868, the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad created an expanded demand for coal. Union Pacific chose to establish a separate mine, and manager Thomas Wardell opened the Union Pacific No. 1 Mine south of Bitter Creek and east of the Blair Brothers' mine. Mine No. 1 served as the hub from which the town of Rock Springs grew.

Rock Springs was created by miners and their families, who laid it out to suit their needs and to conform to the contours of the land. The twisted layout reflects in part the temporary nature of most coal camps. Also, the growth and early development of Rock Springs predated active Union Pacific involvement in the coal town. Wardell was a private developer contracted to provide coal to the Union Pacific Railroad. He took little interest in developing towns. Thus, the first residents took the job in hand. The 1870 census shows that few of these early residents were involved in commercial enterprises. Most were miners, and their wives were listed as "keeping house." Many women apparently took in boarders and doubled their workload to help provide money for the family. Due to the lack of good housing in 1870, it is understandable that few residents remained in the area long. Very few of those listed in the 1870 census remained in Rock Springs by 1880, thus reflecting the transitory nature of the early settlement.

The layout of Rock Springs was also influenced by the location of Bitter Creek and the nature of the rock formations in the area. The rock formations confined the early settlements to the alluvial plain of Bitter Creek and the mouths of its tributaries, Dead Horse and Killpecker Creeks. The population of the town remained relatively low in the nineteenth century, and there was no reason to expand beyond the confines of the alluvial plain created by these streams. A few early residents settled on the ridges immediately north and south of Bitter Creek, but not too far in either direction. Most of the

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settlements were strung out east and west along the Bitter Creek Valley. Many early settlers excavated dugouts into the alluvial soils of Bitter Creek to house their families. Lone miners and families alike lived underground until better accommodations could be built.

Three environmental factors plagued the newly founded town. First, wood for construction had to be shipped in. With less than ten inches of moisture annually, the only trees close to town were junipers. These trees, while good for fuel, were not adequate for major construction. Fortunately, sandstone found in the area was of superior quality, and the early commercial structures, such as Beckwith and Quinn's mercantile store, utilized stone for the foundation and walls.

Second, the lack of wood was compounded by the lack of water. Water for cooking, drinking, and bathing was in short supply and was initially provided by wagons from a spring north of town or from Point of Rocks. Later the railroad ran water in tank cars from Green River and stored it in barrels at each house at a cost of 25 cents per barrel. The Union Pacific became actively involved in seeking new sources of water and even attempted to tap the springs north and south of town. However, the water problem was not alleviated until the Union Pacific laid a water line from the Green River to Rock Springs in the late nineteenth century. The Green River Water Works, owned and operated by the Union Pacific, supplied water not only to the town, but also to the mines and the electric generating plant. Control of such an important resource in an arid community assured the Union Pacific of even greater political leverage.

Finally, there was a problem with sewage disposal. Early residents dumped raw sewage into Bitter Creek. In late fall and winter when the creek diminished to a trickle, the sewage could not be flushed away. Numerous citizens decried this condition. The conditions were eased by the construction of outhouses, but the continued disposal of mine water and trash into the creek did little to lessen the complaints about "stinking Bitter Creek."

Offsetting these limitations was an enviable commodity, one of the best coal deposits in the West. Rock Springs coal became the standard by which all other western coals were measured and gave to the town a stable economy. While other factors worked against its survival, coal mining gave Rock Springs its lifeblood.

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The mines in the Bitter Creek Valley attracted statewide attention and ultimately more settlers. By the mid-1870s coal had become such an important source of revenue for the railroad that the Union Pacific abruptly cancelled its contract with Wardell and took over all the coal lands and operating mines. It formed its own coal department, which became known as the Union Pacific Coal Company, and appointed D.O. Clark as general superintendent. Throughout the 1870s and 1880s, the Union Pacific Coal Company opened Mine Nos. 2, 3, 4, Old No. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. The coal company contracted with Beckwith, Quinn and Company to import Chinese laborers and built houses to quarter them. In addition to the Union Pacific mines, numerous other coal mines were opened in the Rock Springs District between 1870 and 1880, including the Interstate Mine, the Van Dyke Mine, and mines at Blairtown and the Sweetwater Camp. Although the Union Pacific Coal Company was the dominant operator, several other independent companies and operators mined coal on non-Union Pacific land, including Patrick J. Quealy's Rock Springs Coal Company, the Central Coal and Coke Company, and the Wyoming Coal and Coke Company.

In 1870, the Rock Springs commercial district was in its infancy. Commercial ventures included liquor retailing stores (three), a blacksmith shop (one), and a telegraph service. The 1870 census lists no other services and only records thirty-two buildings in the entire town. However, the town soon began to expand. From 1870 to 1880 the number of buildings in town almost quadrupled, and the population grew from 117 to 763. The 1880 Census reveals the nature of the town prior to the 1885 Chinese Massacre and indicates healthy commercial enterprises in the growing coal camp. By 1880 there were 122 structures or houses in Rock Springs. Since most commercial buildings doubled as boarding houses or homes, the number of houses listed in the 1880 Census roughly paralleled the total number of buildings in the town. There were about forty houses built by the Union Pacific to quarter Chinese workers. Thus in 1880, approximately one-third of all the houses quartered Chinese miners. Each house had one cook, whose sole occupation as recorded in the census records was preparing meals for the nine to ten borders. Chinatown also housed a priest, a gambler, and a barber. Thus by 1880, a Chinese commercial center was thriving, located north of the Rock Springs city core.

The diversity of occupations reported in the census greatly increased in the ten-year period between 1870 and 1880. Coal miners and laborers still dominated, but there was a host of other opportunities for commercial

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activity. Many women supplemented the family income by taking in boarders. Female school teachers, servants, and one nurse were also employed in Rock Springs in 1880. Most female servants were unmarried and in some cases were relatives employed to help keep house; some servants were widows. Therefore, women were actively involved in ensuring the economic vitality of Rock Springs.

The nature of entrepreneurial activities in Rock Springs reflected its mining economy. Blacksmiths found ready employment sharpening miners' picks, and bartenders abounded. There were also a German-born butcher, a Swedish blacksmith, a Scottish barkeep, an English-born hotel keeper, a Swedish-born merchant, and an Irish-born hostler. Gamblers, telegraph operators, machinists, store clerks, merchants, and herders all contributed to life in Rock Springs in 1880; most were foreign born.

The places of birth for Rock Springs residents in 1880 were extremely diverse. Most native born residents came from northern states. Rock Springs immigrants came from China, Mexico, Sweden, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, England, Canada, Denmark, Nova Scotia, Bavaria, and Austria. In comparison, the 1870 census listed Rock Springs residents from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Denmark, Prussia and Canada.

The town continued to develop in a haphazard fashion among the coal mines, which ultimately created the current mine subsidence problems. Decent housing for the early miners was scarce. The first wood frame house was brought to the site of Rock Springs from Point of Rocks in 1870 by William Mellor. Joseph L. Young and John Jarvie started a store and saloon that same year in a building on the north side of the railroad tracks. The first school was located on the second floor of the store and saloon. A schoolhouse was erected on B Street in 1874, and Rock Springs School District No. 4 was formed that same year. Thomas Wardell constructed the first store, a Union Pacific Company store. It was housed in a two-story stone building that also served as the mine office and post office. The store was soon operated under contract with the Union Pacific Railroad as the Beckwith-Quinn Store. It stood on the corner of E Street and South Front Street (now South Main Street) until it was torn down in 1971. Tim Kinney and Company, a general merchandise business, was established in the 1870s in a two-story stone building still standing at 410 South Main Street.

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The Rock Springs Miner published an article about the early history of Rock Springs in 1897 that described the first buildings:

Following it (Mellor's store) were erected on South Front Street, twelve frame houses termed the 'pepper boxes,' on account of the peculiarity of their structure having been made in and shipped from Chicago. Soon thereafter six dwelling houses lathed and plastered were put up by the Union Pacific Company on the street southwest of No. 1 Mine (Second Street).

When Mine No. 2 was opened in 1871, another group of houses was built on the hill west of the first group. The Wyoming Board of Immigration described Rock Springs in a pamphlet published in 1874:

The town contains several good stores, a church, school house and numerous residences. Nearly all of the buildings are of stone, and are built in a neat, substantial manner. The population is about 600.

A townsite with lots, blocks, and streets was laid out rather belatedly in 1881. The original town plat consisted of thirty-four blocks with five along North Front Street on the north side of the Union Pacific tracks and the remainder on the south side of the tracks. East-west streets were simply designated by numbers and north-south streets by letters.

The development of the downtown commercial center was closely related to the dominance the Union Pacific held over Rock Springs after taking control of the coal mining operations in 1874. Although the coal industry was the tie that continued to bind the town together, two communities began to emerge in Rock Springs. They were initially divided by race, but were also divided by property control, with part of the town owned by the Union Pacific and the other part by private land holders. By 1885, the Union Pacific controlled the water, all the major coal mines, the labor force and its housing, the price of shipping coal, and the infamous company store. Eventually, the Union Pacific owned all the town's utilities. While some private ownership did exist, it was the Union Pacific that controlled most of the town's real estate. The Chinese Massacre on September 2, 1885, was a tragic event resulting from the company's efforts to control labor, land ownership, and Rock Springs.

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The Chinese in Rock Springs

The events of September 2, 1885, are pivotal in the history of Rock Springs. Starting in the late 1860s, the Union Pacific began to actively hire Chinese railroad workers. The 1870 census shows Chinese railroad workers scattered throughout southwestern Wyoming. After 1874, when the Union Pacific Coal Company took control of Wardell's operations, the company actively recruited Chinese miners through its agents, the Beckwith-Quinn Company. Some 400 Chinese were delivered to Rock Springs, specifically to break an impasse between the union and the railroad, a situation guaranteed to create hard feelings. Beckwith and Quinn's contract with Union Pacific Coal Company stipulated that housing would be provided for a fee. The fee was a forced rent payment that required the Chinese to live in company housing and buy mining supplies from Beckwith and Quinn, who actually distributed the Chinese miners' salaries, after deducting rent and supply fees. This contract not only relegated the Chinese miners to company housing, but by so doing, set them apart from the other miners.

Misunderstandings accumulated, and against the backdrop of region-wide anti-Chinese sentiment, violence erupted on September 2, 1885. The riot was apparently a spontaneous mob action precipitated by a controversy in one mine over the possession of a room between Chinese laborers and a Euro-American miner. A fight ensued with pick and shovels, and other miners soon joined the melee. The Chinese lost the skirmish, and the white miners left the mine. They armed themselves and mounted an attack on Chinatown. Twenty-eight Chinese died; Chinese miners who had contributed to the growth and development of the area were driven out, and many of their homes were burned. The surviving miners and their families fled to Evanston but were returned to Rock Springs by the Union Pacific and the United States Army. To insure smooth operation of the coal mines and the Chinese miners' safety, the United States Army built Camp Pilot Butte. From 1885 until 1898, under the pretense of protecting U.S. mail (the only justifiable reason for stationing federal troops along the railroad mainline) the army occupied Rock Springs.

Although Chinatown was rebuilt, the Union Pacific Railroad did not attempt to increase the Chinese work force after the massacre. In 1888, a treaty was negotiated between China and the United States prohibiting Chinese immigration for a period of twenty years. The company continued to employ those already on the payroll until they died or were pensioned off. Several returned to China at the company's expense in recognition of their long years

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of service. By 1940, no Chinese were employed in Union Pacific coal mines. Census figures between 1870 and 1950 reflect the growth and decline of the Chinese population in Sweetwater County. From 95 in 1870, their numbers rapidly grew to a high of 497 in 1880, then gradually decreased to 349 in 1890, 318 in 1900, 103 in 1910, and finally, to 52 in 1950.

Following the Chinese Massacre of 1885, the Union Pacific continued to build more company housing. An entire company housing facility called Number 4 Camp was built on the east side of town, and by the turn of the century, Japanese town, Number 8 Camp, and a large company store had been built by the Union Pacific. The company also began to recruit miners from Finland, Italy, Greece, Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia, and Japan, and the labor force became truly multi-national.

Rock Springs: From Coal Camp to City. Rock Springs experienced its greatest period of growth during the decade of the 1880s, its population increasing from 763 to 3,406. It was during this time period that Rock Springs was transformed from just another coal camp into a full-fledged town.

During the 1880s, Rock Springs acquired electricity and a reliable water supply, thus making the town more attractive to potential citizens and businesses. The power plant was constructed by the Union Pacific in 1886 to provide power for its mines, but it also sold electricity to Rock Springs residents and businesses. Power lines were first built along South Front Street and extended to the north side of the railroad tracks. The water pipeline from Green River was completed in 1888, but it was many years before water mains were extended to all portions of the town.

Confidence in the future of the town in the late 1800s was reflected in the establishment of the first banks. The Sweetwater Bank was organized in 1886 by Henry G. Balch, David Bacon, and Augustine Kendall and backed by Laramie businessmen with a capital of \$25,000. The bank was first housed in a building formerly used as a butcher shop (on the site of the Yellowstone Hotel). After the first year of operation, it became the First National Bank of Rock Springs. A new building was constructed to house the bank in 1888. A second impressive three-story building tiled with terra cotta was constructed on the site in 1919. To make room for the bank, Block 8 was bisected and Bank Court was created. This building, now the First Security Bank, is enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places. The original bank building is still standing at 450 South Main Street.

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The Rock Springs National Bank was organized on May 23, 1893, with Tim Kinney as president, George H. Goble as vice-president, and Frank Pfeiffer as cashier. The bank was housed in a fine two-story stone building constructed by H.H. Edgar at 518 South Main Street. This building is still standing with some street-level modifications. In 1911, the bank moved into a new \$55,000 three-story stone building at the corner of C Street and South Main Street. The Rock Springs National Bank surpassed the First National as the largest bank in Rock Springs when John Hay gained control of the bank in 1907. This building and the Rialto Theatre were razed in the late 1960s when the present bank complex was constructed on this block.

Rock Springs became an incorporated city on October 6, 1888. The first mayor was W.H. O'Donnell, elected November 13, 1888. The first council members were H.H. Edgar, Edward Thorpe, Augustine Kendall, and N.C. Peterson. William Mellor was the town treasurer; Robert Smith, town clerk; Louis J. Palmer, town attorney; and George Pickering, marshal. The preferred residential area for the city was on the south side of the tracks, particularly along B Street, and contained several substantial homes of wealthy businessmen. However, the majority of Rock Springs residents lived in humble wood frame Union Pacific company housing. Some still dwelt in dugouts along Bitter Creek, and a substantial number of Chinese still resided in company housing and shacks in Chinatown.

The configuration of the town became more complex by 1890. There were three recognizable divisions--industrial, commercial, and residential. The industrial complexes centered around mine openings. Number 1 Mine was actually located downtown and was flanked on the west by the South Side Commercial District. In the 1890s, residential districts were either developed by private entrepreneurs or by the Union Pacific. Number 4 Camp was a planned residential area built by the coal company next to the Number 4 Mine to allow workers easy access to the job site. The streets at Number 4 were well planned and laid out, in contrast to those laid out in the 1860s and later by private landowners. The maze of streets that distinguish Rock Springs were created by two forces--the Union Pacific, which laid out streets on a grid system, and the private owners, who laid out streets haphazardly. The private and corporate communities were connected by streets built along seemingly unnatural curves and angles.

The commercial district evolved more systematically than the residential areas. By 1880 the core of the town was centered on North and South Front

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Streets. Bisected by the Union Pacific Railroad, the North and South Front commercial districts faced one another across a wide expanse of steel. Early residents had a choice of two crossings at C Street and K Street. However, when the Union Pacific built a new depot and loading platform, the K Street crossing was closed. The railroad then built an overhead steel viaduct for pedestrian traffic. The tracks not only created separate commercial districts but residential districts as well. This in turn led to the formation of new churches, such as Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in 1912, for north side residents who were afraid to send their children to the south side due to the danger of the railroad tracks. An inspection of early Rock Springs newspapers reveals that several residents were struck and killed by trains each year. The railroad tracks remained a problem well into the twentieth century until adequate pedestrian and vehicular viaducts were constructed.

The downtown core expanded despite the physical handicaps, but the entrepreneurial spirit was partially stifled by the Union Pacific's monopoly of both the mining and transportation industries. By 1900, the blocks between Broadway and South Front comprised the southside commercial district. On the north side, the city's merchants had opened shops on Broadway, K Street and Pilot Butte. A uniquely Rock Springs configuration marked this half of the commercial core. North Front paralleled the railroad tracks, K Street angled northwest, and Pilot Butte dead-ended at K Street then curved like a lazy "S" to the northeast. Both K Street and Pilot Butte benefitted from providing services to Camp Pilot Butte, which helped loosen the Union Pacific's grip on the local economy as it provided a ready source of revenue for merchants, bartenders, and even gamblers.

In the 1890s, several new and impressive buildings were constructed, lending an air of permanency and substantiality to Rock Springs. The first opera house was constructed in 1889 by H.H. Edgar on the north side of the railroad tracks. The opera house seated 500 but burned in December 1894. It was replaced with a fine stone building equipped with electric lights and steam heat and a seating capacity of 750. Public meetings and dances were also held here. Previous to the building of the opera house, dances were held above the South Pass Saloon on North Front Street and above the Fountain Saloon on South Main Street. A two-story stone school building was constructed on B Street in 1891. The state-supported stone Miners' Hospital was built at the south end of C Street in 1892. It burned down in January 1897 but was rebuilt and opened again on May 15, 1898.

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One of the most impressive buildings still remaining in the central business district from this time period is the old city hall. It was designed by M.D. Kern of Salt Lake City, and J.L. Shedd, building inspector for Rock Springs, was in charge of construction. The masonry work was subcontracted to Roy and Company, Rock Springs stone masons, who had also constructed the Miners' Hospital. Work was started in April 1894 and completed in 1895. The facade rose thirty-two feet above grade and had a ninety-two foot high tower on the northwest corner of the building. The town hall is one of the last remaining examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style in southwestern Wyoming and is enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places.

The rich ethnic mix of the city can be derived from the U.S. Census returns. In 1890, there were 1,373 native white, 2,033 foreign white, two Negroes and 333 Chinese. By 1900, the numbers had risen to 2,059 native white, 1,915 foreign white, 104 Negroes, and 279 "colored" (probably referring to the Chinese). The number of Chinese was significantly lower than that estimated by local newspapers at that time, which generally estimated 1,200 to 1,400 residents of Chinatown. The English, Scotch, Welsh, and Irish dominated the foreign-born whites until 1890. After that time, a large influx of southern European immigrants tipped the balance in favor of those from Austria, Italy, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, and Yugoslavia.

Rock Springs had a large contingent of Tyrolean immigrants from the Dolomite Mountains, originally part of Austria but part of Italy after World War I. By 1911, there were an estimated 1,000 Tyroleans in Rock Springs whose favorite gathering place was the Fountain Club on South Front Street across from the depot. Several of the Tyroleans established major businesses in Rock Springs. Henry Bertagnolli founded the Union Mercantile Company in 1893 with the financial help of relatives and friends. The Union Mercantile was located on the corner of K Street and Fifth Street, one block north of North Front Street. This became one of the largest merchandise stores in Rock Springs. Joseph Anselmi established the Pilot Butte Grocery, which soon became the Miners Mercantile Company, a general merchandise store. It became one of the largest businesses in Rock Springs and also specialized in stocking Tyrolean foods.

The "secret societies" also reflected the rich ethnic background of the city and included the Caledonian Club for people of Scottish descent, the Harmony Rebekah Lodge No. 3, the A.C. of Hibernians, the Finnish Temperance Society, the Excelsior Lodge No. 9 IOOF, the Pilot Butte Encampment No. 6 IOOF, the

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Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Andres Offrea Christoforo Columbo Italia Americana, and the Sweetwater Lodge No. 6 Knights of Pythias. By 1893, Rock Springs had six churches representing the Roman Catholics, the Mormons, the Episcopalians, the Methodists, the Congregationalists, and the Finns.

Labor unions did not come to the Rock Springs mines until after 1900, when the United Mine Workers of American began to organize the miners. At first the Union Pacific Coal Company opposed union organization as it had effectively done in the 1870s. However, when it became clear that large numbers of miners were joining the UMW, the Union Pacific Coal Company appointed Morgan Griffiths, a highly respected Welshman, to negotiate with the workers. As a result, a one-year statewide agreement was signed with the UMW on September 1, 1907. This agreement set wage rates and established the eight-hour day. An article written in 1915 in The New West Magazine expressed the benefits of the union to Rock Springs and its citizens:

This much unionism has especially well demonstrated in the Rock Springs district--that through its effort every miner, grubbing deep beneath the earth's surface, risking his life daily, at least had the assurance that his job will last as long as he does his work conscientiously and adheres to the union principles. He knows too that now should he suffer injury while at his work he will receive compensation, since the union to which he belongs has succeeded in causing a workmen's compensation act to be placed upon the statutes of the state and he knows that should he be killed he will be insured a decent burial and his family will be cared for. More than this, he knows just what wages his work will bring him and that the measurement thereof will be honest.

The article also stated that the union had allowed a miner to become a more stable member of the Rock Springs community and that he could now raise his family, buy a home, and spend more money among the local merchants. Another benefit of the union was its contribution to the effort of "Americanizing the foreign born."

The union obtained the Grand Opera House on North Front Street and renamed it the Union Opera House. The The New West Magazine described the Labor Temple in 1915:

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All the trades are organized in the Rock Springs district with the exception of the retail clerks. They have a fine labor temple built of solid stone, two stories high, entirely free from debt. The lower part of this building is rented to various business concerns and the upper part is devoted to the club rooms and meeting halls of the local unions. They maintain a fine library comprising 1100 volumes, all of which were donated...In the meeting halls the members of some union in the district congregate each night of the week and on every other Sunday evening the Sweetwater Federation of Trades and Labor meets in general council. This organization is made up of delegates from the various unions and most of the important work is accomplished by this executive board.

The Labor Temple still stands at 455-457 North Front Street, and except for some street-level modifications, it appears much the same as when first obtained by the union.

The central business district still had wooden sidewalks or no sidewalks at the turn of the century. Finally, in 1908 cement sidewalks were installed along South Front Street. They were then extended to C and B Streets and along North Front Street. Sidewalk construction continued into 1912, and property owners paid the costs. However, the streets remained unpaved into the 1920s except for a small segment from the railroad tracks south along C Street to City Hall.

The commercial district gradually expanded east and west on South Front Street from B Street to E Street with some development along 4th Street or Broadway. The commercial district along North Front Street spread north along K Street and Pilot Butte Street. The 1903 Sanborn Map lists five "sales" buildings, one confectionary, one "jewelry and drugs" store, two restaurants, one jewelry store, one cobbler, two barber shops, one "lodging" building, one clothing store, one tailor shop and two "sales and gambling" houses located on the east side of K Street. On the west side of K Street, there were three lodging and boarding houses, one tailor, one cigar manufacturing company, one grocery and two sales houses. Moreover, in 1903, on Pilot Butte Street a fledgling commercial district was evident including eight structures labeled "sales" or "General Sales," one meat market, one barber shop, and a lodging house. The core area, then, of the commercial district at the turn of the century consisted of North Front, Pilot Butte, K Street, South Front, and Broadway. Outside the core area there were smaller

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commercial ventures, but the major stores were downtown. Among the smaller ventures outside the commercial core were "lodging and boarding houses" scattered throughout Rock Springs. Also evident in many areas of town were carriage houses and livery stables. While the business core consolidated in the late nineteenth century and the principal businesses remained along North and South Front Streets or adjacent avenues in the early 1900s, there was a spread of small enterprises away from the core area along the railroad tracks. However, most residential areas contained no large commercial structures. Churches, lodging houses, Union Pacific industrial facilities (associated with mining), and livery stables were the principal non-residential structures outside the downtown core area clustered around the five principal streets.

There were also many changes and additions to the central business district. In 1903, Tim Kinney and Company, one of the oldest businesses on the south side of the tracks, sold out to the Cosgriff Brothers, a gigantic sheep concern that also had a chain of mercantile stores across the region. The business was called Cosgriff and Couzens, but in about 1907 it became the Stockgrowers Mercantile Company, a business cooperatively owned by a number of ranchers. This building now houses Bi-Rite Drugs and several other businesses from 406 to 414 South Main (Front) Street. Beckwith-Quinn, another pioneer Rock Springs business, lost its role as the Union Pacific company store and sold out to A.F. Neuber, who took in a partner and changed the store's name to Beeman and Neuber Mercantile Company. However, the business was still housed in the original stone building. This historic building was torn down in 1971 to make room for the construction of the Cinema Theater.

The first two decades of the twentieth century brought economic growth to Rock Springs. When the Interstate Commerce Commission broke the Union Pacific's strangle hold on the coal industry in 1906, competing coal companies begin to open mines and build coal handling facilities in the Rock Springs area. In addition, the Union Pacific's coal mining operations continued to expand. As the demand for coal increased, so did the need for more miners. Local business had always competed with the Union Pacific company store. The benefit of having competing coal companies in Rock Springs, coupled with a rise in population, led to growth in the downtown commercial district. The economic growth from 1900 to 1919 could be at least partially attributed to the arrival of new capital in the form of Colony Coal and the expansion of the Gunn Quealy coal mines. Furthermore, numerous coal

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camps ranging from two hundred to three thousand inhabitants grew up within a twenty-mile radius of Rock Springs. Superior was the largest, but Dines, Winton, Gunn, Quealy, Lionkol, and Reliance all emerged as major mining communities. Many of the miners and their families came into Rock Springs to shop or attend the theatre. Rock Springs also served as a shipping center. Goods bound for Pinedale and points north were off-loaded at Rock Springs. As Pinedale grew, so did Rock Springs warehousing and shipping strength. Ultimately, as the automobile replaced the horse-drawn freight wagon, truckers freighted goods from Rock Springs to towns throughout the area.

In 1912, a group of Rock Springs men opened the North Side State Bank. C. Juel was the president, C.P. Bunning, vice president, and V.J. Facinelli, cashier. The bank was first housed in a two-story stone building constructed by John Bertagnolli in 1911 on K Street (now the New Grand Cafe). Construction of a new three-story brick bank began in 1923 on the site of the Hotel Belmont (the old St. James Hotel). The Superior Lumber Company of Rock Springs was awarded the general building contract. The architect was D.D. Spani, the only professional architect in Rock Springs. The building was finished and opened for business in May 1924. The North Side State Bank was razed in the early 1990s to make room for the new North Side State Bank.

Several institutional and public buildings were added to the south side of Rock Springs during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The town was proud of the building of the Carnegie Library in 1908. It was located on C Street and was built at a cost of \$12,500. Overcrowding in the existing school system led to the building of a fine, three-story brick high school on B Street in 1916 next to the old stone school. The older building was later torn down to provide space for a parking lot for the high school. Built at a cost of \$85,000 the school was designed by D.D. Spani and constructed by E.H. Cowell of Denver. Cowell built a brick plant in Rock Springs to manufacture the bricks for the school's construction. The school opened in January 1916 and was considered one of the largest and most up-to-date educational facilities in the state. A new high school was built in the 1930s, and this building was then used as a junior high school. The old high school still stands with only minor exterior modifications at 316 B Street.

The Rock Springs Masonic Lodge constructed a three-story brick Masonic Temple in 1912-13 on a lot just south of the new federal post office. D.D. Spani initially drew the plans incorporating the ideas of the building committee. However, the Baerressen Brothers of Denver and Cheyenne were chosen as

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architects. This firm had designed the El Jebel temple in Denver. Archie Allison was chosen as general contractor. The temple was completed on January 10, 1913, and still stands at 218 B Street.

The Federal Post Office was constructed at the corner of B Street and Broadway. Construction began in November 1911, but this massive two-story brick building (60'x90') required special building techniques because the area was underlain by coal tunneling. The building is similar to many other post offices built in the United States between 1900 and 1920, containing elements of the Neo-Classical Revival style and designed under the supervision of Henry Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the Treasury Department. The post office cost \$75,000 to build. It had revolving doors on the north and east public entrances, and the employee entrance on the west. The interior had separate windows for the stamp clerk, a registry, postal savings, money orders, and general delivery. There was a large private office for the postmaster, a room for civil service exams, and a shower-bath and lockers for the employees. The importance of this federal building to Rock Springs is reflected in the fact that when the cornerstone was laid on May 31, 1912, the coal mines and shops closed for the ceremony.

The Rialto Theatre was constructed by the Rialto Amusement Company east of the Rock Springs National Bank on South Front Street. The theatre opened on February 21, 1921. The building was described in the Sweetwater County Industrial Review:

In the construction of the Rialto great care was taken. The lighting, heating, and ventilating systems are the very best and most modern. The stage is arranged so as to accommodate the largest production of vaudeville, stock, or road shows. The seating capacity of the theatre is approximately 1300. The building is fireproof, being built almost entirely with the best quality of brick and concrete.

The Rialto Amusement Company was composed of Tom and Mary Berta and several local stockholders. Movies were shown and accompanied by a six-piece orchestra. Vaudeville acts performed on Sundays, and local talent performances were also encouraged. The Rialto finally closed in 1959 and was razed to make room for the construction of a new banking complex in 1966.

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In 1924, the Elks Club (BPOE 624) constructed a three-story brick edifice at the corner of Second and C Streets, a short distance south of the proposed district boundaries. D.D. Spani designed the building, and F.H. Cowell of Denver was the contractor. This was the same team that had designed and built the Rock Springs High School in 1916. The building was constructed at a cost of \$160,000. The local Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in 1900 with twenty charter members. The Elks first built a lodge in June 1911 when the membership had grown to 335. After the new building was occupied in 1924, the old Elks Club building was purchased by the Rock Springs National Bank. The current Elk Club building has received few if any exterior modifications and reflects the Italian Renaissance Revival style of architecture. It is one of the most imposing buildings in Rock Springs remaining from this time period.

The north side also benefitted from the construction of several new buildings during this time period. The Park Hotel was constructed at 19 Elk Street on the north side of the railroad tracks in 1914-1915. John Park was the proprietor, and he advertised his establishment as the only modern hotel in Rock Springs with hot and cold water in every room. The Park Hotel catered to "commercial men" and "automobile tourists," the latter referring to the completion of the Lincoln Highway through Rock Springs. The new hotel was designed by D.D. Spani, and F.H. Cowell received the contract for the brick work. The Rock Springs Lumber Company received the contract for the inside work. The Park Hotel has served the same function under the same name since it was constructed.

A.T. Chalice constructed a commercial building at 545 North Front Street in about 1909. It was a large two-story concrete building with a brick facade that now houses the Village Square and the Rex Hotel. The building housed a jewelry and candy store and the rear portion contained the 250-seat Lyric Theater. The theater name was later changed to the Oracle. In 1924, the Rex Amusement Company acquired the building and converted the Oracle Theater into a modern facility with 600 cushioned seats, elaborate fresco and mural decorations, draperies, a mirrored foyer, and an electrified marquee. James Sartoris was the manager of the theater. The upper story served as the Rex Hotel.

The Golden Rule Mercantile had come to Rock Springs around 1899. It was first housed in a building at 531 North Front Street. W.F. Partin was the proprietor. Partin had been in partnership with J.C. Penney in Kemmerer,

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Wyoming, and they remained partners in the Golden Rule store in Rock Springs during its first years of operation. Partin remained the proprietor of the Rock Springs outlet through the 1910s and early 1920s. By that time, there were sixty-five other affiliated Golden Rule stores throughout the west. J.C. Penney eventually bought out his business partners and became the sole owner of the chain of stores. The Golden Rule stores then became J.C. Penney stores. In the late 1920s, the Rock Springs outlet was moved to a larger store at 421 North Front Street.

Meanwhile, the Union Pacific Railroad recognized the steady growth of Rock Springs from coal camp to city by building a new brick depot in 1900. The new building replaced a small wood frame depot that had been constructed just nine years earlier. The old depot was moved to the east and used as a freight station. The new depot was designed by J.B. Berry, Chief Engineer, Chief Engineer's Office of the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha. The building was set in a large landscaped park area to the west of the old depot site. Although functional in appearance, the building has elements of the Neo-Classical Revival architectural style, especially in the main entrance and vestibule detailing. The interior was divided into a women's waiting room, a men's waiting room, booking lobby, ticket office, and restrooms, with a baggage room and express room in the eastern portion. An interesting feature of the layout was separate entrances for men and women from the train side, leading to the separate waiting rooms. Records show that the depot was altered in 1922 and 1941, but the alterations seem to have been limited to the interior. The exterior remains nearly identical to the original structure.

In 1917, the Union Pacific Railroad replaced the old wood frame freight station with a new brick and concrete freight station. It was designed by the Office of the Chief Engineer, Omaha. The new building had a two-story office area on the west end and a one-story warehouse with loading docks and bays on the east end. The building was retired by the railroad in 1975 and has been leased since that time. The exterior is nearly original except for the sealing of some of the loading bays with concrete blocks.

In the 1920s, Rock Springs became one of the cities along the first transcontinental auto highway. The Federal Highway Act of 1921 resulted in the building of the Lincoln Highway from New York to San Francisco. It closely paralleled existing railroad routes across the country. In Wyoming the Lincoln Highway paralleled the Union Pacific Railroad and thus went

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through Rock Springs. Later redesignated as U.S. Route 30, the route passed north of the Downtown District and followed Pilot Butte Avenue, Bridger Avenue, Center Street, and Dewar Drive through town. As a result, a number of businesses including gas stations, garages and automobile dealerships, restaurants and motels developed along the route. The Lincoln Highway represented a fundamental change in the nation's primary mode of transportation. In Rock Springs this revolution in transportation is represented by the Downtown District, which grew up along the railroad, and the businesses that grew up along the Lincoln Highway in the post-1920s era.

Rock Springs was hit by a devastating flood in April 1924. No lives were lost; but the event emphasized the need for flood control and the long-delayed sanitary sewer system. Mayor Bunning, the city council, and the Union Pacific Railroad settled on a plan to rechannel Bitter Creek away from North Front Street and the central part of town by eliminating a south elbow of the creek. This portion was filled in and a new channel was excavated. The Union Pacific donated land for the diversion channel and land for the displaced squatters who were still living in dugouts in the stream channel. A \$425,000 bond issue was approved for a sewer system. By 1929, a twenty-two mile sewer system was in place, Bitter Creek was rechanneled, and the old streambed was filled in and used for streets, buildings, and the creation of a three-acre park named after Mayor Bunning. Three miles of city streets were also paved and guttered.

Despite all the improvements of the 1920s, Rock Springs was destined to remain a town separated into north and south districts until the early 1940s. With the approval of the Union Pacific Railroad, the city pushed through a crossing replacement project that included a bridge over the tracks for vehicles on A Street, a pedestrian underpass at C Street, and an underpass at M Street. The old steel pedestrian viaduct over the tracks, considered an eyesore by many residents, was finally dismantled. Thereafter the flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic across town was far easier and safer, with no delays caused by train switching.

The Architecture of Rock Springs. Rock Springs experienced a series of clearly-defined building phases during its history that are reflected in its architecture today. Many of these trends have been mentioned in the preceding discussion but will be condensed here for a clearer understanding of these phases.

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Rock Springs began as a Union Pacific coal camp and railroad station. At its inception, no one could foresee the phenomenal growth in store for Rock Springs. The town grew up around the mines and the maze of railroad tracks. Simple wood frame company housing was set up around the mines as they were developed. A formal townsite with lots, blocks, and streets was not laid out until 1881 after considerable development had already occurred. One of the early surveyors who laid out the rather uneven blocks excused himself by saying, "What's the difference? It will never be anything but a coal camp."

In addition to the company housing, hundreds of dugouts and informal dwellings grew up along Bitter Creek that were flooded on a regular basis. However, several substantial locally quarried sandstone businesses were built along North and South Front Streets during this early settlement period. They were two-story commercial buildings with falsefronts and thick and roughly cut and coursed sandstone walls. They reflect the skill of European stonemasons among the early labor force attracted to the area by the mines. Some of them may have been employed in bridge building on the Union Pacific Railroad, as temporary wooden bridges built in haste were replaced with more substantial bridges. Very little is known about these early craftsmen or the origin of their building concepts. All of the buildings in the survey area constructed during the 1870s-1880s have either been razed or altered. For example, the Beckwith and Quinn store is gone, and Tim Kinney and Company (410 South Main) has been covered with a brick facade. A commercial building at 531 North Front Street that once housed the Golden Rule store reflects this building period, but the facade has been covered with brick and clapboard siding. The other remaining stone buildings were constructed in the 1890s and are more refined in building techniques.

Numerous wood frame commercial falsefronts were also built during this time period. However, only a few examples have survived. The Fountain Club at 514 South Main is a notable example, although it has received street-level alterations of the facade. The typical nineteenth century commercial structure was two stories with a flat or gable roof and falsefront with a projecting decorative cornice and a recessed central entrance flanked by large display windows with kickplates, clerestories, and transoms. These structures are usually considered Italianate in style but the detailing varies widely. Another example from this time period is 443 North Front Street, a one-story wood frame single storefront.

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During the 1890s, many fine stone buildings were constructed, often with intricate architectural detailing. They most closely resemble Late Victorian Italianate commercial architecture with the basic components listed above. They are similar to the stone commercial buildings constructed in the 1870s and 1880s, in that rough cut locally quarried sandstone was used in wall construction, but the facades were finished in a high grade of cut stone with numerous architectural embellishments. The buildings were generally constructed by local contractors using plans from architectural patternbooks, newspapers, or journals of the period. There were no professional architects in Rock Springs until D.D. Spani arrived in 1911. The intricate moldings, cornices, windows, doors, and other detailing were manufactured in the East and shipped to local building supply companies. The principal building contractors active in Rock Springs in the 1890s were H.H. Edgar, Pat Hynes, and the Rock Springs Lumber Company. H.H. Edgar was a contractor and builder who constructed the two-story stone Grand Opera House in 1894 that still stands at 457 North Front Street, and the two-story stone Rock Springs National Bank Building in 1892 at 518 South Main. Pat Hynes was also a local contractor and builder who constructed the two-story stone building complete with cupola in 1892 at 440 South Main Street. The Rock Springs Lumber Company was founded by Augustine Kendall, Griff W. Edwards, John L. Reynolds, and Clarence Hartman in 1892. It soon became one of the chief building supply and contracting concerns in Rock Springs. Along with Roy and Company, local stone masons, the Rock Springs Lumber Company received the subcontract for the masonry work on the City Hall in 1894.

Although constructed during the same time period with locally quarried sandstone, the City Hall is a notable exception to the pattern, as it was designed by a professional architect, M.D. Kern of Salt Lake City. Kern employed the Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style, patterned after H.H. Richardson, popular in the United States from 1870 to 1900.

Many notable buildings were constructed in Rock Springs during the early twentieth century. By the turn of the century, Rock Springs had experienced a tremendous period of growth, and it was clear that it was becoming a modern city. The hopes and expectations of the local population ran high and are reflected in the public, institutional, and educational buildings constructed during this time period before the Great Depression. The Union Pacific Railroad depot represents a bridge between the centuries and probably reflects the railroad's admission that Rock Springs was "an up and coming community." This one-story brick Neo-Classical Revival building was designed

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by J.B. Berry, Union Pacific's Chief Engineer in Omaha. It represents a standardized design for passenger depots along the Union Pacific line that could be adjusted depending on the size of the city or town. It therefore reflects national instead of local building trends for this time period. The same is true of the Federal Building completed in 1913. It was built using standardized post office plans and reflects early twentieth century federal post office construction using a Neo-Classical design. Nevertheless, these buildings were a great source of community pride and instilled confidence in the economic future of Rock Springs.

Daniel D. Spani was the first professional architect to set up a business in Rock Springs. Spani arrived in 1911 from St. Louis with fourteen years of experience. He was responsible for the design of so many important buildings in Rock Springs during this time period that it is worthwhile to discuss his background. Dominick Spani, Daniel's father, was a Swiss emigrant who was a builder and contractor in Benton, Illinois. Daniel attended the University of Illinois but left his senior year in 1902. He went to St. Louis in 1903 and worked with Theodore Link, architect, and then Eames and Young, architects. He left St. Louis and worked for seven years as an inspector of millwork of post office buildings throughout Kentucky, Tennessee, and part of Indiana.

Spani came to Rock Springs in 1911, perhaps in association with the new federal building being constructed, and opened an office as an architect. By the 1930s, Spani was still the only architect in Sweetwater County. Therefore it is not surprising that he was called upon to design many of Rock Springs' important buildings during this time period. He designed and built the First National Bank Building (Securing Bank Building) at 502 South Main (1919), the North Side State Bank Building, formerly at 601 North Front Street (1924), the Rock Springs High School at 316 B Street (1916), and the Elks Club Building at 307 C Street (1924). All of these large, multi-story buildings are located in or near the proposed National Register district. Other buildings he designed were the Junior High School Building, the Yellowstone School Building, the Lowell School Building, and the Roosevelt School Building. In Green River, he designed the First National Bank Building, the Crocker Building, the county jail, and additions to the courthouse. Spani left his indelible mark on Rock Springs and southwestern Wyoming.

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Downtown Rock Springs Historic District
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Another important development in local architecture and construction was the establishment of local brick plants in Rock Springs in the 1910s. Formerly, brick construction was restricted because the bricks had to be shipped in from Salt Lake City. E.H. Cowell, a Denver building contractor, built a brick plant in 1914. He used the bricks to construct the new high school building for which he had been awarded the contract. In addition, Chris Bunning, D. Stevens, and C.P. Scott built a brick plant in the same year on ground near Mine No. 2.

Brick construction then set the trend for new commercial buildings in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, the final historic building phase in Rock Springs. Such buildings were constructed by local building contractors using local and shipped in materials and standardized plans. The buildings are simple and functional with few architectural embellishments other than decorative brick and terra cotta tile designs. The buildings are one or two-story brick with flat roofs, brick parapets, and single or double recessed or flush entrances and flanking display windows. Some of the buildings have elements of the Art Deco and Art Moderne styles popular during this time period. This is reflected in the use of colored glazed bricks, terra cotta tile, and mosaic tiles, generally used in the kickplate areas and for trim around the display windows. Some notable examples are the Fanelli Music-Rushmore Furniture building at 553 North Front Street/19 K Street, a two-story brick structure dating from 1923-1924 with corner entrances and secondary recessed entrances, display windows, and kickplates and trim covered with black and green glazed ceramic tiles; the Union Mercantile Company, a two-story brick structure similar in design to Fanelli's with a corner entrance, display windows, and black glazed ceramic tile covering the kickplate areas and trim. The building features a narrow corrugated aluminum awning around the two street facades of the building, decorative brickwork above the second story windows, and a narrow, scalloped white terra cotta cornice. Most of the buildings from this time period are plain and functional in design, with fewer architectural embellishments than the above examples. Because of their relatively recent construction dates, commercial buildings from this time period are the most numerous examples remaining in the survey area today.

Summary. The history and economy of Rock Springs was heavily dependent on the Union Pacific Railroad and its coal mines, and therefore the economy rode the roller coaster of market demand for coal. Production plummeted in the first years of the Great Depression, then began a steady rise with increased

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production for the war effort. However, after World War II, the coal industry did not rebound but sank to a record state low of 1.6 million tons by 1958. The greatest blow to the coal industry at that time was the conversion from steam to diesel locomotives by the nation's railroads and the shift to natural gas and oil for home heating. The Wyoming coal industry remained depressed until the late 1960s, when new power plants both in and out of state required the inexpensive, low-sulphur coals found in Wyoming. Although the Union Pacific closed down its coal mining operations in and around Rock Springs, other industries gradually filled the void. The economy of Rock Springs continues to rely on energy development, but the emphasis has shifted from coal to oil and natural gas, trona, and uranium. Coal sources are now located in the outlying area, such as Black Buttes and Jim Bridger, but Rock Springs is still the closest commercial center in the region. It also serves as commercial center for the agricultural community of sheep and cattle ranchers.

In the early 1970s, Rock Springs began a period of urban renewal and city beautification projects. The local newspapers are rife with articles and photographs of the razing of numerous historic buildings in and around the central business district. The city considered these landmark buildings to be "glaring eyesores" and "dangerous to inquisitive children (and adults)." Thus a concerted campaign brought about the destruction of many buildings that had stood for nearly one hundred years, such as the old South Pass Bar and the Quinn-Beckwith Store. "Progress" also erased the Rialto Theater and the Rock Springs National Bank Building in Block Seven of the Original Town Plat to make room for the new bank complex. The most recent casualty was the North Side State Bank.

Mine subsidence also played a key role in the urban deterioration of downtown Rock Springs. Number One Mine underlay large portions of the city from South Front Street to Interstate 80. When it was closed, the underground workings were no longer maintained and filled with water. The resulting subsidence caused structural failures throughout the commercial and residential areas with cracked foundations and walls, flooded basements, and cave-ins. In the 1980s, federal funds from the Abandoned Mine Lands program were used to fill in the mine voids under downtown Rock Springs.

The "Energy Boom" of the 1970s resulted in new growth outside the old commercial core area. The Plaza Mall and White Mountain Mall resulted in an exodus of businesses to these facilities on the outskirts of the city.

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Sweetwater County, Wyoming

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Motels and gas stations also migrated along the interchanges of Interstate 80 in the 1960s and 1970s as traffic patterns changed. However, the most devastating effect on the downtown commercial district occurred in the mid-1980s, when a statewide recession resulting from a "bust" cycle in the energy industry caused many Rock Springs businesses to fail.

These dynamic factors were more severe because they occurred in a vacuum created by the failure to implement any downtown redevelopment plan. However, in the period since 1987, the citizens of Rock Springs aided by local, state, and federal participation have shown a new interest in revitalization of the downtown area. The changes are evident in the proposed National Register District with several new businesses and the upgrading of several of the component buildings, including painting, repairs, and removal of inappropriate materials to restore the facades to their original appearance. Also, new streetlights, parking areas, and flagstone sidewalks have been installed along North Front Street. Finally, the old City Hall has been restored using funding from the Abandoned Mine Lands program.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Downtown Rock Springs Historic District is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points:

- A. 12/648200 m E/4605220 m N
- B. 12/648425 m E/4605425 m N
- C. 12/648590 m E/4605330 m N
- D. 12/648330 m E/4604965 m N

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses all or portions of Blocks Three, Four, Five and Eight of the Original Town Plat for Rock Springs along North Front and South Front (Main) Streets adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The northeast portion of the district also includes Lots 1-3, 7-11, and a portion of Lots 19-23 of Block 8 of the North Addition in order to include two contributing properties that are closely associated with the history of the commercial district--the original site of the North Side State Bank (Building No. 1) and the Union Mercantile Store (Building No. 2). The district boundary generally follows lot lines and building lines of exterior walls. Because multiple east-west trending railroad tracks bisect the district into north and south sections, lot lines and buildings lines were extended utilizing a pedestrian underpass on the west to connect the two sections. On the east, the building line was extended southward across the tracks and utilizes the building lines of the Union Pacific Warehouse (Building No. 20) and extensions of the building lines to connect the south segment of the district. The eastern district boundary then utilizes the east building line of Building No. 34 and its southern extension through a vacant lot to Broadway (4th Street). On the southwest corner of the district, the boundary encompasses four properties consisting of Lots 4-7, Block 11 and Lots 4-7, Block 12. The southern district boundary utilizes an alley and parking area and the south building line of the Masonic Temple (Building No. 44) in order to exclude intrusive modern buildings and parking lots in these blocks from the district.

Overall, the irregular boundaries are justified due to the presence of the railroad tracks, the exclusion of modern building intrusions, and the

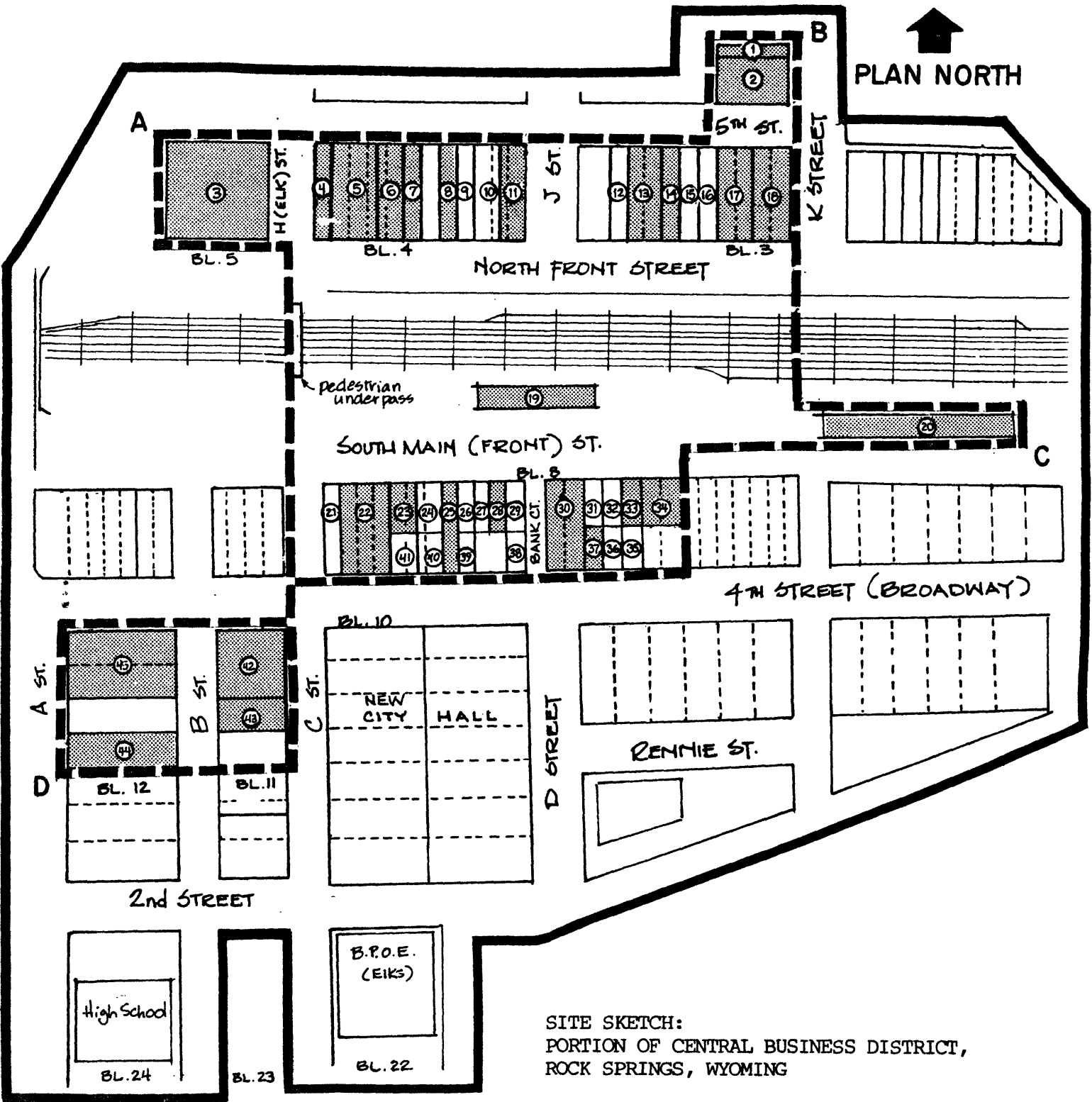
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Downtown Rock Springs Historic District
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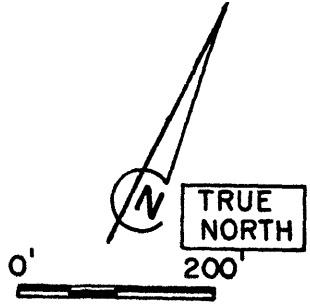
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inclusion of strong contributing buildings that are considered to be essential elements of the Downtown Rock Springs Historic District. The proposed district includes the significant historic buildings in this area that still retain physical integrity. Although many of these buildings have received street-level modifications, the historic character of the district is strong. Furthermore, the district is unique in that the railroad tracks have bisected the downtown into north and south sectors that have managed to maintain a close relationship due to the pedestrian and vehicular underpasses.



PLAN NORTH

SITE SKETCH:
 PORTION OF CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT,
 ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING

-  Survey boundary
-  Proposed Central Business District N.R. Boundary
-  Lot lines
-  Contributing buildings
-  Noncontributing buildings



(REVISED 8/93)

BUILDING KEY
ROCK SPRINGS NATIONAL REGISTER COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
 (REVISED 8/93)

C = Contributing NC = Noncontributing NR = on National Register

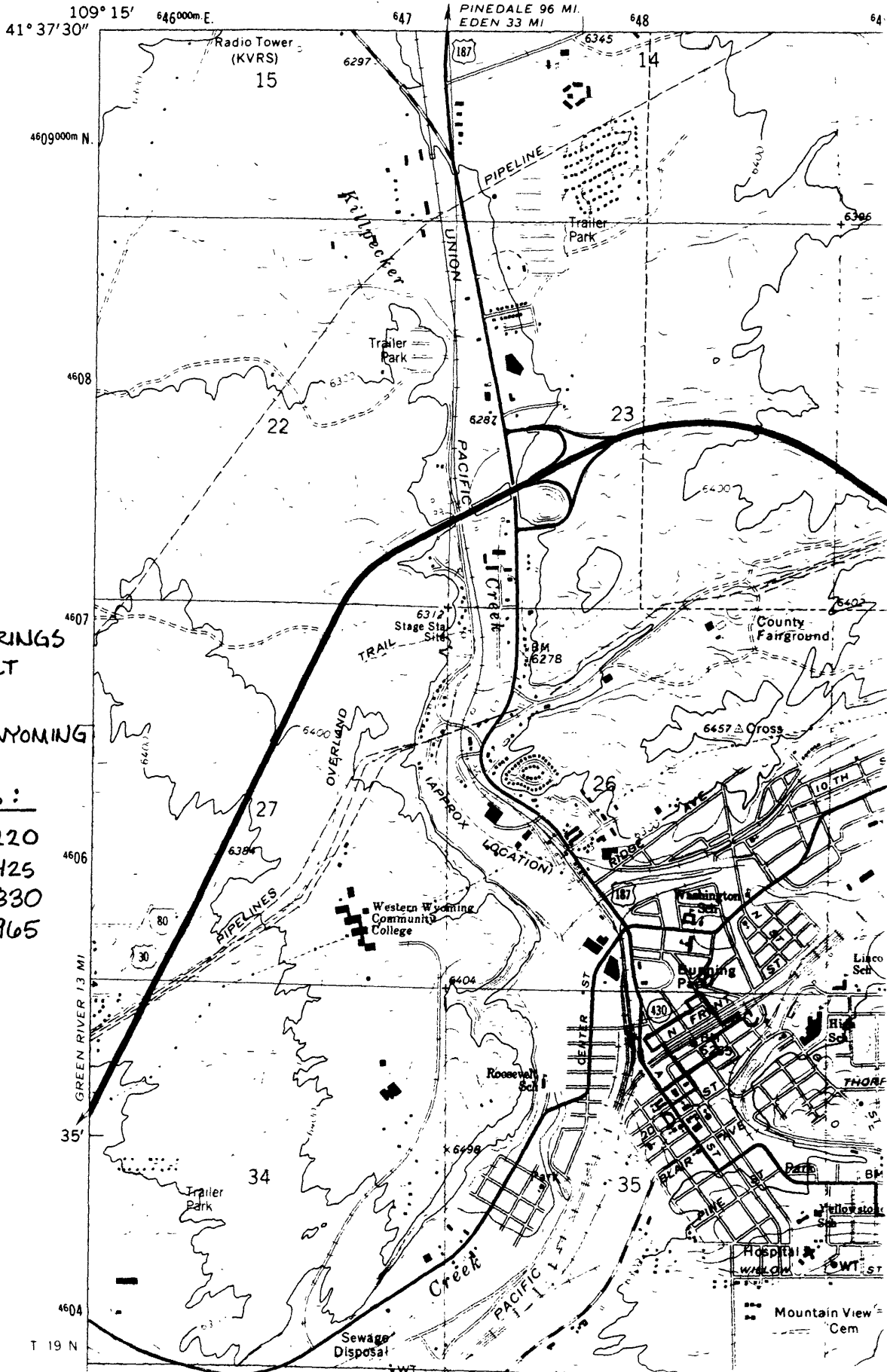
	<u>Name of Property</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Eligibility</u>
1.	New Grand Cafe	117 K Street	C
2.	Union Mercantile Company	105 K Street	C
3.	Park Hotel	19 Elk Street	C
4.	Imagination Arts & Crafts	403 N. Front Street	C
5.	The Antique Mall	407 N. Front Street	C
6.	Warehouse Video	421 N. Front Street	C
7.	New Life Ministries	431 N. Front Street	C
8.	Serendipity Books & Gifts	443 N. Front Street	C
9.	Kelley's Shoes	447 N. Front Street	NC
10.	Toastmaster Bar	453 N. Front Street	NC
11.	Callas Realty/Front Street News	487 N. Front Street	C
12.	James and James Attorneys	110 J Street	NC
13.	I.O.O.F./Fanelli Fine Furniture	515 N. Front Street	C
14.	Fanelli Sleep Shop	527 N. Front Street	C
15.	Law Offices	531 N. Front Street	NC
16.	Fanelli Appliance Warehouse	535 N. Front Street	NC
17.	Rex Hotel/Village Square	545 N. Front Street	C
18.	Fanelli Music, Appliance & Furniture/Rushmore Furniture	553 N. Front Street/ 19 K Street	C
19.	Union Pacific Railroad Depot	South Main Street	C
20.	Union Pacific Warehouse/ Freight Station	South Main Street	C
21.	Wood 'N Stuff/Dance Patch/ Arnoldi's Tatoo	402 S. Main Street/ 139 C Street	NC

	<u>Name of Property</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Eligibility</u>
22.	Bi-rite Drugs/Touch of Class/ Personal Tax Service	410 S. Main Street	C
23.	New Studio Camera Shop	416-420 S. Main Street	C
24.	U.S. Post Office, Contract Station No. 1	422 S. Main Street	NC
25.	Country Cottage/Plaza Hotel/ Party Supplies Unlimited	430 S. Main Street	C
26.	Vacant	432 S. Main Street	NC
27.	Copier and Supply Co.	436 S. Main Street	NC
28.	State Farm Insurance	440 S. Main Street	C
29.	Vacant	450 S. Main Street	NC
30.	First Security Bank	502 S. Main Street	NR
31.	Total Exposure Tanning and Hair Salon	504 S. Main Street	NC
32.	Rock Springs Chiropractic Health Center	510 S. Main Street	NC
33.	Moonglade Gifts and Baskets	514 S. Main Street	C
34.	Vacant	518 S. Main Street	C
35.	Robbins Insurance	515 Broadway	NC
36.	Vacant	511 Broadway	NC
37.	Rocky Mountain Service Bureau	505 Broadway	C
38.	Mane Attraction Hair/ Tanning Salon/ Uptown	455 Broadway/ 108 Bank Court	NC
39.	Dr. Eugene Dowd Optometrist	435 Broadway	NC
40.	Morgan Mining Environmental Consultants, Ltd.	421 Broadway	NC
41.	Faler Agency	417 Broadway	NC
42.	Rock Springs City Hall	B Street & Broadway	NR
43.	F.O. Eagles Aerie 151	211 B Street	C

	<u>Name of Property</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Eligibility</u>
44.	Masonic Temple	218 B Street	C
45.	J & J Boat Center (Old Post Office)	210 B Street	C

4167 III NE
(PILOT BUTTE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



DOWNTOWN ROCK SPRINGS
HISTORIC DISTRICT
ROCK SPRINGS,
SWEETWATER CO., WYOMING

UTM REFERENCES :

- A. 12/648200/4605220
- B. 12/648425/4605425
- C. 12/648590/4605330
- D. 12/648330/4604965

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93001492

Date Listed: 1/19/94

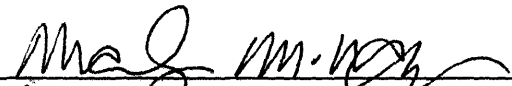
Property Name
Downtown Rock Springs H. D.

County
Sweetwater

State
WYOMING

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

1/19/94

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 10

This nomination is amended to show that the acreage of the resource is 15.97 acres.

This information was provided by the Wyoming SHPO (1/15/94).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)