

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 2 1978

DATE ENTERED FEB 1 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Spirit Lake Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main St.

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Spirit Lake

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE
Idaho

CODE
16

COUNTY
Kootenai

CODE
055

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 - UNOCCUPIED
 - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
 - YES: UNRESTRICTED
 - NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kootenai County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Coeur d' Alene,

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

---FEDERAL STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spirit Lake Historic District, located on the principal street of Spirit Lake, Idaho in the two blocks west of State Highway 51, encompasses the historic commercial and civic core of that town. It consists of 19 buildings, 15 of them with architectural interest, ranging along two sides of Maine (sic) Street. The boundary extends from the old bank building on the southeast corner of the square at Fourth and Maine (#1), west to Third Street. After a jog to exclude a modern structure on the southeast and include an historic structure (11) on the northeast corner of Third and Maine, the boundary extends east along Maine to that point at which a visually compatible, but modern, structure occurs (east of #19). There are several vacant lots within the core, created by building attrition, and #1 and the southeast boundary adjoin a vacant area several lots wide. The downtown area is adjoined to north and south by residential areas, and on the western boundary gives way to the forest land and interspersed residential development which separate it by a mile from the lake after which the town is named.

The majority of the older buildings in the district were built in the town's initial boom period, between 1907 and 1910. The predominant material is "cast stone" or rusticated cement block, with a smaller proportion of brick and a few frame buildings. The one-story buildings alternate with a nearly equal number of two-and-three-story ones to produce a picturesque facade line, particularly in the cohesive group of old buildings on the south side of Maine. The styles are for the most part a fairly utilitarian brand of Frontier Commercial architecture. Retilinear massing, and, in every case but one, flat roofs, are employed. Eclectic reminiscences of the Italianate, and Romanesque Revival styles may be discerned in the cornice and window treatments of the more ambitious structures.

Most of these buildings are still in commercial use, or have recently been returned to commercial use after periods of vacancy. Several have been adapted to apartments, one to a residence. Of the four modern intrusions within the historic core, three are civic in function: the post office, the renovated city hall and the police department (#'s 12, 16 and 17). These, along with the service station which forms the fourth such intrusion (#15), are one-story structures. The architecturally significant structures are in various states of repair and adaptation to later commercial conventions, but all are restorable. Local merchants have demonstrated a desire to rehabilitate the downtown along historic lines. A number of buildings have been re-faced with wood as a result; a flagpole has been raised again in the square.

INVENTORY:

1. Jako Drugs was originally the Bank of Spirit Lake, built 1907. Its major stockholder was F. A. Blackwell, president of Panhandle Lumber Company, which built the town. Occupying a corner of the principal intersection, this two-story brick building originally boasted a corner entrance onto the square. Brick keystone lintels distinguish the building above the level of the modern awning, as do brick quoins and a broad modillioned metal cornice.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1907-1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

various

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Spirit Lake Historic District is architecturally significant as a concrete example of substantial boom-town architecture in a community consciously developed for long-term economic gain. Spirit Lake was a mill town built by a lumber company, The Panhandle Lumber Company; a railroad, the Idaho and Washington Northern; and nominally by a development company, the Spirit Lake Land Company. The financial interests of these concerns so overlapped as to make the town to a great degree the creation of a single entrepreneur: "Blackwell's town at Spirit Lake attracting buyers," the Rathdrum Tribune reported in 1907. And indeed the town was largely built within that year and the next. A year after the township was platted it was reported to have 100 buildings and 1000 residents.

The architecture and town plan of the commercial core reflect these boom conditions. Close on the heels of the sawmill and depot a concrete block manufactory was put into operation, and began producing building materials which gave the appearance of a stable and prosperous community more quickly and inexpensively than could the stone and brick they simulated. Galvanized metal cornices were employed to the same effect. The layout of the town shows a similar desire to establish commercial civilization quickly: the plan which was so expeditiously devised in the summer of 1907 and upon which the principal institutions and accoutrements of town life were so expeditiously raised, allowed for a public square with setback corner lots at the principal intersection.

This focal point of community life was ringed with its principal institutions - bank, store, township office, and probably hotel - and punctuated with a flagpole. The town plan allowed for an elaborate railroad park and an auxillary park as well, and F. A. Blackwell undertook to make his lots the more attractive to prospective buyers by providing water works, sewage system, graded streets and cement sidewalks free to the town.

Spirit Lake has declined in population, from a peak of about 3,000 in the thirties, since the loss of the lumber mill to fire in 1940. There are now somewhat fewer residents than were reported in 1908. This circumstance has contributed both to deterioration and attrition in the commercial core, on the one hand, and on the other hand to a preservation of its spatial and stylistic integrity. This integrity, while not free from intrusions, is more complete than can be found in the commercial districts of towns which have experienced more consistent growth. The boundaries set for the district reflect this cohesiveness and commercial identity. The eastern boundary is determined by the periphery of a core of surviving historic buildings. The northern, southern and eastern boundaries separate the district from adjacent residential and wooded areas.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rathdrum Tribune, Feb, 1907 - July 1908,
 Coeur d'Alene Journal, May 1907 - May 1908.
 Pocatello Journal, 5 July 1978, Section B, p. 1

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 6 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

DA	11	509600	5312350	CR	11	509600	5312175
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
GC	11	509825	5312175	AR	11	509825	5312350

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The Spirit Lake Historic District includes all the property on the south side of Maine Street from the southeast corner of Fourth and Maine to the southeast corner of Third and Maine; and all the property for the north side of Maine Street from the northwest corner of Third and Maine to Fifth Street, with the exception of the northwest corner property at Fifth and Maine, as indicated on the enclosed map labeled Spirit Lake Historic District.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Wright, Don Hibbard, Architectural Historians

August 15, 1978

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Idaho State Historical Society

384-2120

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

670 N. Julia Davis Drive

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boise

Idaho

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Merle Wells

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12 September 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles ...

DATE

2-1-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

W. Roy Luce

DATE

1-31-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Supplemental information - Spirit Lake Historic District

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7. The original district boundaries were drawn somewhat tightly to include only the original (and contemporary) commercial area of Spirit Lake. As pointed out in the original nomination, the town has not grown and neither has the business district. The contiguous blocks are either forested or residential. Although there are scattered structures of some architectural interest in neighboring blocks, their concentration and proximity to the proposed district is insufficient to permit their inclusion here.

The presently proposed boundaries to the district follow the original rationale of encompassing the commercial core. However, they have been further restricted to reflect the objections of National Register staff to extensive resurfacing of original fabric with wood. The western and northwestern boundaries have been changed to exclude building #11 of the original nomination, and also to exclude building #12 (intrusion) and the vacant lot beside it.

Originally-numbered building #19 has also been veneered since the photographs were made, and has been excluded. The revised district therefore includes the town square, all of the buildings on the south side of Maine Street, and those buildings on the north side which contribute to the integrity and interest of the district. The intrusions which intervene between these architecturally significant structures and spaces are now numbered 13, 14, and 15. Buildings numbered 13 and 14 of the original nomination are now numbered 11 and 12; building number 18 is now number 16. A revised and corrected map is provided.

Addendum to inventory item #18 (#16 on revised map): The owner of this structure plans to restore it to its original appearance and function, which was as a hotel. He is sensitive to the importance of respecting the original stylistic intentions of an historic building. A notable interior feature is an intact pressed tin ceiling which will be preserved in the restoration.

8. The town square with its inset corners appears within the limits of our ongoing inventory to be unique in the state. The apparent symbolism of the planned square as a focus for civic and commercial life is addressed in paragraphs two and three of section eight of the original nomination.

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2. A second brick structure with metal cornice is Miller's Food City across Fourth Street. This one story block, in which modern metal siding has replaced the original display windows facing Fourth and Maine Streets, has an extended mercantile history: Hodgen and Company and Kadisk Pharmacy were early occupants. It was built, like the bank, in 1907. Its corner entrance onto the square has survived.

3. The Cozy Theatre, as it came to be named in the twenties, was originally the first store in Spirit Lake, built by Henry Krech in 1907. Its present use is as a laundromat. Its sham brick and stone cement block exterior walls have been painted, a small cornice roof has capped the "brick" piers which once extended slightly above roof line, and board and batten siding has been applied to much of the original window area. The present owner has reinstalled the twenties sign above the corner entrance and hopes to revive the theatre.

4. Joe's Hole (now the Hole in the Wall Saloon), 1910, is a one-story brick structure with a narrow strip of windows at cornice level. The storefront has been paneled with wood.

5. The IOOF or Millbank building is visually the most striking of the early structures in Spirit Lake. It is three stories tall, of rusticated cement block. The narrow round arched entrances at either side of the facade, and the windows of the second story, were surmounted by wide eyebrow mouldings; those on the second floor are intact. Three porthole windows with similar moldings decorate the top story. Wood overlay obscures the original legend at cornice line, and panels have been set into the arched second story windows. A shingled pent roof over the ground floor storefront is also modern. The building is presently occupied by apartments.

6. The H.M. Niner has also received wood siding on its exterior face, but the 1907 brick structure, distinguished mainly by decorative brick work in the form of recessed panels and false brackets on the upper facade, remains intact.

7. The White Horse Saloon and Hotel is a pendant to the IOOF buildings two doors west. Another three-story cast-stone structure, its more severe facade is penetrated by rectangular casements on the second and third stories. Flat arched window heads with keystone motif and a pent metal cornice near the roof-line are the major decorative elements. The ground-floor facade has been re-faced with wood.

8. The Linger Longer Bar building was erected in 1930. The simple one-story brick exterior is compatible with the appearance of the neighboring buildings.

9. The third multi-story concrete block building on the south side of Maine dates from 1910 and houses a liquor store at ground level and apartments above. Its three upper-story facade windows are capped with flat keystone arches. The building is possessed of a sagging but handsome metal cornice with large end brackets and finials. A shingled awning at ground level is a modern addition.

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10. Jean's convenience Store occupies the last commercial structure on this side of Maine Street. The unpretentious one-story building was tailored to its corner location, for the facade in the form of rusticated blocks and metal cornice, extends along the Third Street side of the building. When it was erected in 1910 it would have been one of the first buildings visible to travelers emerging from the park laid out around the railroad depot then lying just to the west.

11. Moe Smith's residence and proposed hardware store, once Lockling's Grocery, was built in 1925 with an addition in 1928. The frame structure with its shallow-stepped false-front gables was until recently sheathed in asbestos siding. It is now wood-sided, and a narrow balcony has been built out from the upstairs living quarters.

12. The Spirit Lake Post Office is a one-story modern brick and cedar structure which is reasonably unobtrusive in the streetscape.

13. The Lakeland Development Company's vacant one-story frame building was one of the first structures in town. Its facade is the most deteriorated one on the street, with plywood patches and siding beginning to peel from the modest false-front gable. However the small bracketed cornice below the gable and the bulk of the clapboarding are in relatively good condition under a metal-covered end-gabled roof. The storefront is characterized by plate-glass windows, a recessed central entry and a deep transom strip the width of the facade.

14. The Spirit Lake Hardware occupied a cast-stone building, currently vacant, which was built in 1907 to double the width of most of the surviving structures. The storefront is therefore unusually wide, with a central entrance and plate glass windows with transom strip across the width of the facade. Four second-floor windows with smooth-faced lintels have been boarded in, as had one of the show windows downstairs. A modillioned metal cornice near the roof line is in very good condition. A wood-trimmed marquise is a later addition.

15. The Chevron Station on the northeast corner of Fourth and Maine is a modern intrusion, built in the 1960's.

16 and 17. The Spirit Lake City Hall and Fire Department, respectively. City Hall is an early one-story concrete block structure which has been extensively altered with a shingled mansard cap. The Police Department is a plain one-story structure of brick. The scale and texture of these buildings is reasonably compatible with the district.

18. The 1908 building adjoining the Spirit Lake Police Department is a two-story cement block structure which has been converted to apartments. The ground floor facade has been modernized. However the upper story retains its original rusticated finish, pairs of double-hung sash windows framed with contrasting quoins, and abbreviated cornice trim at roofline.

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19. Cliff Hoban's garage, built 1912, has been completely sheathed in vertical board and batten in the front and several yards along the side wall, so that its appearance is that of a frame building. The structure preserved beneath, however is of the familiar rusticated cast stone. Wooden garage doors on the right have replaced corrugated metal. A small row of transom lights above the main window to the left has been filled in and given simple wood-strip decorative treatment matching that which runs across the face of the building. The disposition of the openings is unchanged and a small metal cornice has been preserved.

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Rehabilitation and restoration activities are presently underway with the businessmen working in conjunction with the local historical society. Many of the buildings first story facades are being resurfaced according to what are considered to be necessary commercial dictates. However these efforts to stabilize a declining downtown will work for the preservation of these historically valuable structures.

1

Rathdrum Tribune, 11 October, 1907, p. 1 c. 3.

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Supplemental information - Spirit Lake Historic District

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10. Approximately four acres.

Verbal boundary description: The Spirit Lake Historic District includes all the properties on the south side of Maine Street from the southeast corner of Fourth and Maine to the southeast corner of Third and Maine. The boundary line having encompassed these properties on the alley to the south and northward along the east curb of Third Street returns east along the curb on the south side of Maine to a point opposite the southwest corner of building number 11, thence north across Maine and beyond to the rear of property 11, thence east along the alley to the northeast corner of property number 16, then south to Maine, west to the square, and south across Maine and on to the alley to include property number 1. These boundaries are indicated on the enclosed sketch map labelled "Spirit Lake Historic District, Revised Boundaries."

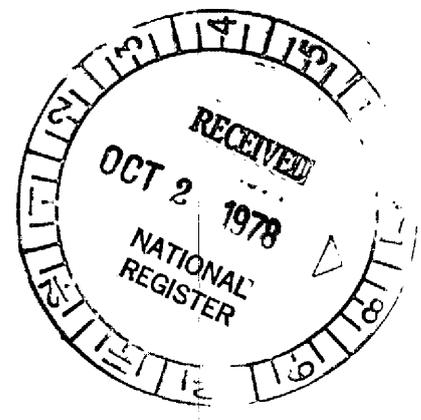
Revised UTM References

- A. 11/5,09,850/53,12,350
- B. 11/5,09,850/53,12,250
- C. 11/5,09,830/53,12,200
- D. 11/5,09,670/53,12,200
- E. 11/5,09,670/53,12,250
- F. 11/5,09,710/53,12,305

Spirit Lake Historic District Property Owners

- John Hale ✓ Spirit Lake, Idaho 83869
- James R. Hall ✓ Spirit Lake
- Joanne Case ✓ *letter missing* Spirit Lake
- Margaret L. Benoit Poland ✓ Spirit Lake
- Gerald B. Doss ✓ Spirit Lake
- Margaret Charters Ross ✓ Spirit Lake
- Donald E. Smith ✓ Spirit Lake
- Robert R. Root ✓ Spirit Lake
- John W. Smith ✓ Spirit Lake
- Gerald R. Millson ✓ Spirit Lake
- Philip E. Dolan ✓ Spirit Lake
- Jaco Enterprises ✓ Spirit Lake

12 owners
11 letters





SPIRIT LAKE HISTORIC DISTRICT

SPIRIT LAKE, IDAHO

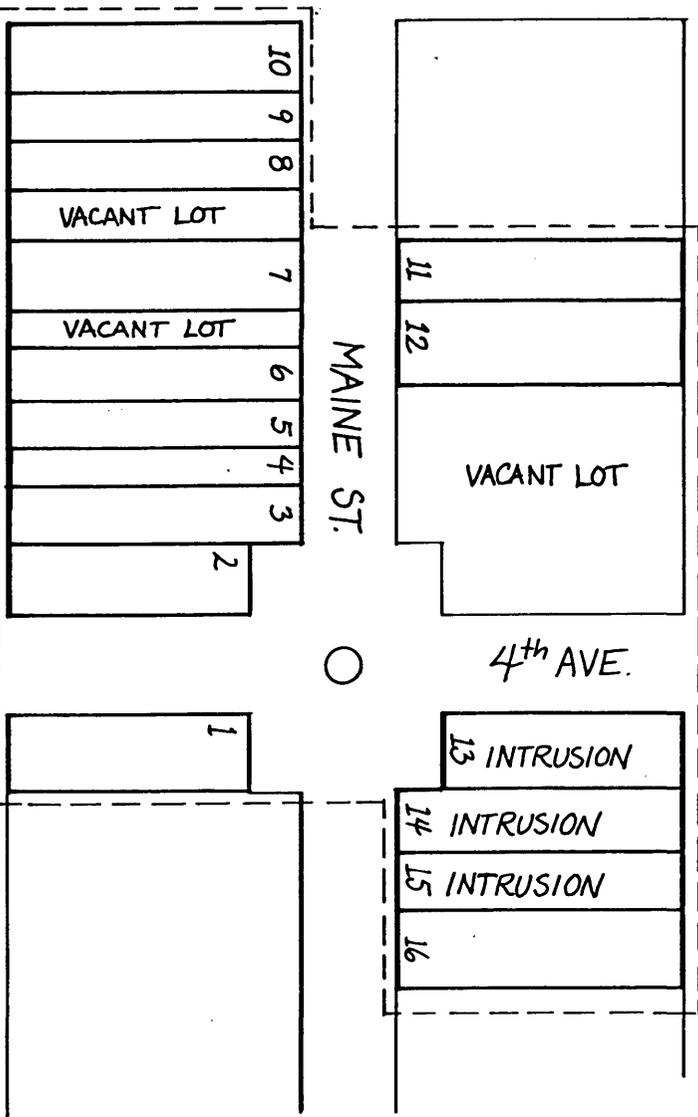
REVISED BOUNDARIES

(NOT TO SCALE)

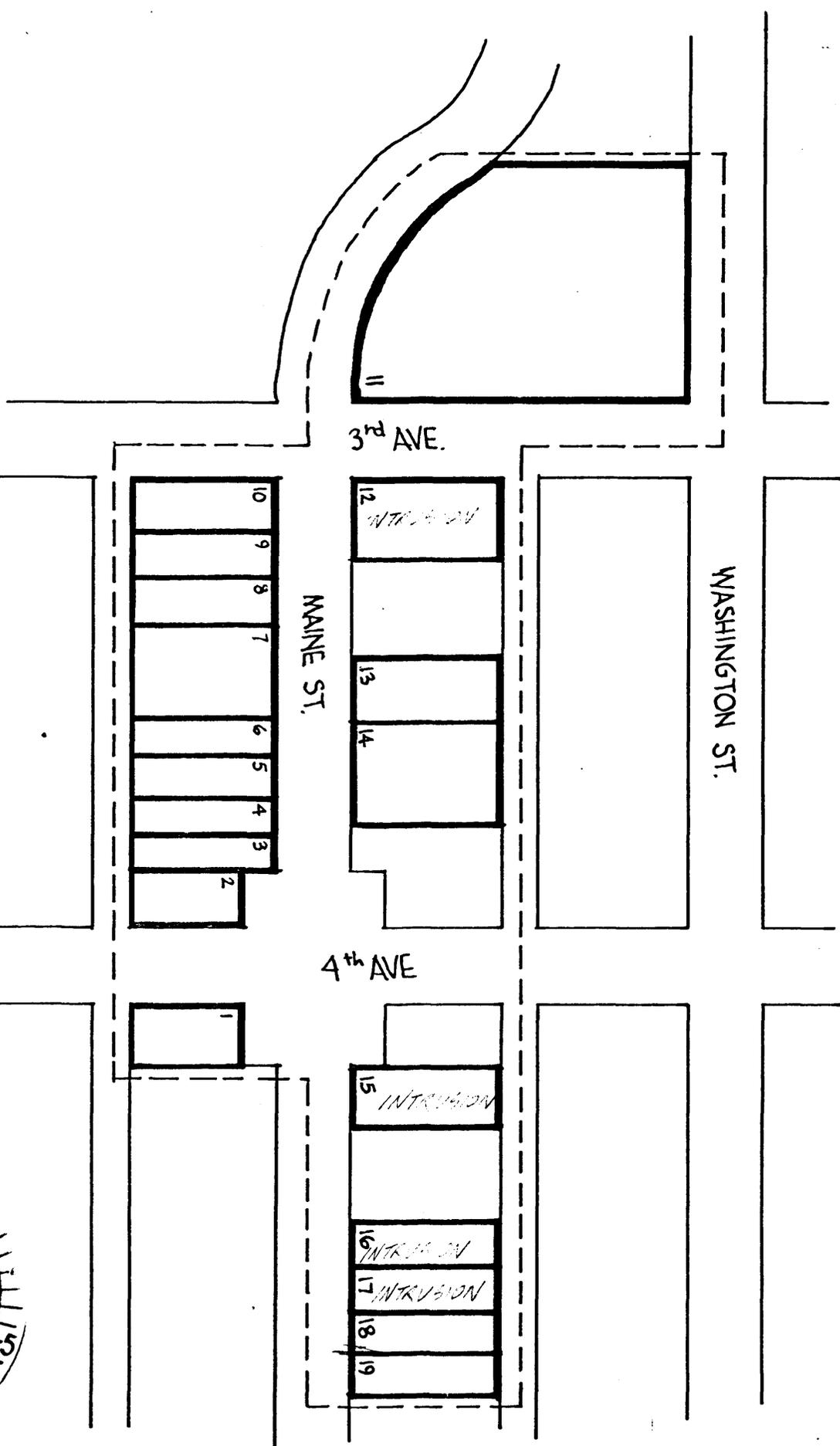
3rd AVE.

4th AVE.

MAINE ST.



----- DISTRICT BOUNDARY



SPIRIT LAKE HISTORIC DISTRICT

SPIRIT LAKE, IDAHO

NOT TO SCALE

--- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

